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Lindhout thanks family, friends in statement

RED DEER An Alberta journalist recently freed from Somalian kidnappers says she is re-adjusting to life at

Amanda Lindhout issued a statement Thursday, thanking fellow hostage Australian photojournalist Nigel Brennan for helping her endure 15 months in captivity. She says she doesn't fault the Canadian government for its role in her release, a topic of public debate since the pair were freed in November.

Lindhout expressed gratitude for family and friends who remained committed to her release.

. I am humbly reminded that mankind is inherently good by the tremendous efforts and support of fellow Canadians," she writes. THE CANADIAN PRESS



News on the Maye

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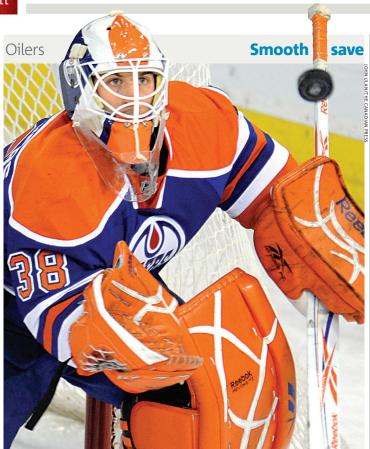


Downey shines as Sherlock

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Edmonton Oilers goalie Jeff Deslauriers makes a glove save against the Nashville Predators during first period NHL hockey action in Edmonton on Thursday. Coverage, page 25.

Harper covert in Copenhagen

Go Green

TALKS Stephen Harper kept a low profile on his first day at the Copenhagen climate summit amid high hopes for a breakthrough over a \$1-

While the prime minister hobnobbed with other ronment Minister da's address to the UN climate talks late Thursday.

An advance copy of Prentice's speech was only nine paragraphs long, and reiterated many of the Conservative government's stated climate positions on change.

They include the con-

rather than the comple-mentary "Kyoto-plus" option supported by developing countries.

The speech is unlikely to ease criticism from developing countries and environmentalists who accuse Canada of failing to make concessions to help reach a deal - and of relinquishing its historic role as a progressive on the world stage. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wireless warfare

Cellphone competition heats up with arrival of new carriers

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
victoria.handvsides@metronews.ca

Competition is on the horizon for Canadian cellphone companies, as new providers bound for Edmonton prepare for a

wireless turf war. "The consumer is the ultimate winner in all of this," NAIT marketing professor Ray Bilodeau said.

Wind Mobile, Dave Wireless and Public Mobile are set to launch in Edmonton and other Canadian urban centres in early 2010, company reps confirmed this week.

Wind Mobile breezed into Toronto Wednesday and will open three boutique stores in Calgary on Friday. Edmonton outlets are expected in January.

New providers are offering freedom from traditional gripes associated with wireless commitments.

Promises of emancipation from conpenalties, tracts, and fees for activation, system access and en-911 hanced service could be enough to lure customers away estabfrom lished providers, Bilodeau said.

"At the end of the

Phone booths

rages onward, traditional street-side phone booths continue to go the way of the Dodo. In the past decade, the number of Telus payphones in B.C. and Alberta have been cut almost in half. In 1999, there were 38,000 phone booths in the two provinces. Today, there are 20,000 left, Telus spokesman Chris Gerritsen

day, service is going to win every time," he said. "If I have the opportunity to deal with someone who I like to work with, versus someone I have to work with because of a contractual obligation, I'll choose who I like.'

Other perks include no charge for incoming text messages and incoming long-distance calls, and the ability to use smartphones on the new networks.

A recent report published by the Organiza-tion for Economic Co-operation and Development states Canada's cellphone rates are among the highest in developed countries.

"This is going to keep cellphone companies honest," Bilodeau said.

Denmark, it fell to Envireplace the Kyoto Protocol, Jim Prentice to deliver Cana-



trillion American plan.

leaders at a royal dinner hosted by the queen of

tentious notion that any deal in Copenhagen should

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NYE gets medieval at Muttart

Families can celebrate New Year's Eve in medieval style at the Muttart Conservatory this year at a celebration dubbed The Knight is Young. Parents and kids between ages 7 and 12 are invited to dress up and set out on a quest of craftmaking, music and magical performances throughout the pyramids. Call 311 for more information. METRO EDMONTON



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Edmonton tweets

• @ Edmonton_Eh #yegtransit Here with Jay-Z, a coffee, surfing #Twitter headlines on the #81. What is so wrong with that? 45min or less city wide please

@ Persepolian Anyone going to the Jon Lajoie who knows what his show is actually about? #yeg

• @ bethquirie I need more #yeg #foursquare friends lol

metrenews.ca What's online today

Video A University of Calgary researcher learns that prehistoric humans had a much healthier diet than previously thought at

metronews.ca/canada **Blogs** It's Called Football welcomes The Fix author Declan Hill to discuss the fight

against matchfixing
Check movie showtimes, watch trailers and read



Canadian Olympic bobsleigh team member David Bissett spoke to the students at Allendale School Thursday as part of the

Students inspired by 'adopted' Olympian

2010 Games

Hurtling down an icy chute of death at speeds of up to 150 km/h may not appeal to some, but one group of teenagers were captivated by this idea.

The students of Allendale School were treated to the thrills and spills of bobsleigh Thursday as Edmonton-born Olympian David Bissett stopped by to share his journey towards Vancouver 2010.

"Expectations are a lot higher for me this year,' said Bissett. "I don't know if I will be any more nervous than any other race.

Olympic athletes like Bis-

sett are matched up with a school through the Adopt an Athlete program in hopes of teaching students the value of contributing to their community by fundraising for these athletes.

In return, the athletes visit these schools in hopes of inspiring the students to succeed in their own lives.

"It is like a one-time experience," said Daemon Kayn,

Although Kayn thinks that bobsleigh is too dangerous of a sport for him to oursue, he was motivated by Bissett's appearance.

"He is basically saying that anybody can do anything," said Kayn.

CANDICE WARD/ FOR METRO EDMONTON

Rogue taxis in radar

Officials warn they're after unlicensed cabbies

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES

Hitching a cheap ride could come at a greater price than advertised, city officials said Thursday, warning rogue cabbies-atlarge and their customers are in the bylaw radar this holiday season.

Though unlicensed cabbies may offer rides at reduced rates, their cars aren't required for inspection to meet city standards and of-ten don't have taxi insurance required to keep passengers financially protected in the event of an injury collision, city livery officer Phil Fearon said Thursday.

A rogue cabbie was busted by bylaw officers Wednesday driving a Chevy Nova over 30 years old, Fearon said.

"This car looked like it

"This car looked like it was falling to pieces, and this man was charging people to drive around the city."

Phil Fearon, city livery officer

was falling to pieces, and this man was charging people to drive around the city."

Edmonton is the only municipality in the area that has strict control and regulations for taxis, including controlled fares and licens-

"There are people who are cheating or beating the system by starting a taxi operation up in one of the surrounding municipal districts, as well," Fearon said.

Cabbies from neighbouring cities and towns can legally drop passengers off within city limits, but are prohibited from pickups.

Officials routinely conduct sting operations on cabbies operating outside city guidelines, he added.

Licenced cab drivers are fuming at renegade operators, Fearon said, adding his department constantly fields complaints from driv-ers sick of being taken outof-pocket.

The rogue operators are putting themselves in personal jeopardy. I wouldn't want to be one of them standing beside my car by a pub on Whyte Avenue when three licensed operators show up."

Roughly 900 tickets were handed out to "bandit taxis" in 2009.

Over 200 tickets were given to those driving unlicensed taxis, subject to a \$1,000 fine.

metr⊕

Metro Edmonton, Editorial and Photography Interns, Edmonton AB

Metro Edmonton is inviting applications for reporting and photography internships.

The positions offer hands-on experience in a daily newsroom for journalists and photographers or recent grads who are beginning their careers. The positions are non-paid.

Successful applicants in the past have excelled at generating story ideas and writing concise and compelling features as well as covering breaking news. The ideal candidate can also combine photography and reporting skills

The positions are open to students and recent graduates (within the last year or two).

The internships are full-time and start January 2010. They run for three-four weeks, based on availability. Sundays to Thursdays,

No calls please. Only those applicants considered for the position will be contacted

Please e-mail samples of your work, a cover letter and resume identifying all relevant experience and/or skills to:

Harry Hodge | Metro Edmonton, Ste, 2070, 10123-99 Street NW, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3H1 | Tel: NO CALLS E-mail: harry.hodge@metronews.ca | Web address: http://metronews.ca

News in brief

CLINIC The federal government has announced a clinic will open in Edmonton dedicated to the treatment and support of soldiers and RCMP officers with mental-health issues. Veterans

Affairs Minister Greg Thompson says Edmonton is the ninth such clinic to open. He says the services will also be available to family members of those THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CKUA raffling off Harley-Davidson

CKUA is raffling an XL Nightster Harley-Davidson. Raffle tickets, \$10 each or three for \$25, are available at ckua.com/harley. Tickets purchased before Jan. 24 will be entered for the raffle's early bird prize, a Coffee Connoisseur's Dream Package. The grand-prize draw takes place April 9, and the early bird draw Feb. 5. метко врмонтом

Train-hopper regrets ride

'I feel pretty stupid,' man says

As Jonathan Hambler clung with his bare hands to the freezing metal of a freight train that was barrelling into the unknown darkness of a frigid prairie night, it occurred to him he'd made one pretty big mistake.

Just a short time before, in the wee hours of last Friday, the 29-year-old left a bar in Wetaskiwin, Alta., to escort a drunk friend home. It was -20 C, after all, and Hambler wanted to make sure nothing bad happened.

That's when he came up with the worst idea of his

"I just wanted to get across town a little quicker than walking," he said of his decision to hop on a slow-moving freight train to get home a couple of dozen blocks away.

"I was going to jump off real soon, and I thought ... 'It might slow down.' But it just kept going faster."

Hambler's making wild ride had a relatively happy ending — just a couple of days in hospital getting treated for frostbite, along with a fine of up to \$2,000 from Canadian Pacific Railway for petty trespass.

But lest anyone consider it a lark, Hambler has overcome his embarrassment sufficiently enough to come forward with his story for two reasons: First, to thank his rescuers, and second, to emphasize that what he did was no laughing matter.

Everybody thinks ľm joking about it, but it's really nothing to joke about," he said in an interview Wednesday.

"I feel pretty stupid."

By the time RCMP found him after he made a 911 Hambler was hypothermic and was drifting in and out of consciousness.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gallagher Park **Downhill spill**



Nick Beasy, 17, takes a spill off a jump at Gallagher Park yesterday.

Suncor blaze prompts drop in production

OILSANDS Suncor Energy Inc. expects production at an oilsands upgrader in northern Alberta to be reduced for a few weeks as the company repairs damages caused by a fire.

Suncor said the damage caused by the Dec. 15 fire required repairs that would last between two and four weeks. During the repair period, production is expected to be reduced by about 120,000 to 150,000 barrels per day.

Suncor said the reduction is not expected to impact the company's 2009 production outlook.

It added that there were no injuries or environmental impacts related to the incident.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Supreme Court declines appeal on Alberta auto-insurance cap

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES 🏻 🗀

LEGISLATION The Supreme Court of Canada won't appeal Alberta's auto-insurance legislation, a move

that the province's finance minister is supporting. Current legislation caps

soft-tissue injury claims at a maximum of \$4,500.

A previous ruling was overturned in June, which reinstated the cap and forced insurers to reduce rates by five per cent. Finance Minister

Finance Minister Iris Evans said Thursday the decision "recognizes gov-ernment's legitimate concern with the affordability of insurance, the potential

increase of uninsured drivers and the need to ensure accessibility to treatment."

The Supreme Court's refusal to appeal ensures auto insurance remains affordable and accessible for Albertans, Evans said.















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6

metro

Saskatchewan has stopped short of giving a green light to a nuclear power plant, but it isn't putting up a permanent red light either. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dutch had a plan to build Afghan prison

Questions raised about other detainee options

Who or what killed a Dutch and British-backed proposal to build or renovate a safe prison facility for all Afghan detainees taken in southern Afghanistan?

It is one of the mysteries raised by diplomat Richard Colvin's allegations before a parliamentary commit-

The Dutch proposal first came to light after a June 2, 2006 email authored by Colvin, that remains largely censored due to the government's concerns over "national security," was first reported by the Toronto Star last month.

Conditions

• Prison conditions in Uruzgan — where Dutch forces were deploying crowded, dirty and disgusting. The Red Cross gave it a rating of 33 per cent, whereas it gave Sarpoza prison in Kandahar 67 per cent.

In a letter sent this week to the parliamentary committee, Colvin further revealed the separate detention facility was "a serious proposal that in spring 2006 was actively being pursued and promoted by two of our principal NATO

allies" who remained "interested through 2007."

It is not clear why the

proposal went nowhere, although Colvin may have been partly responsible because he also reported to Ottawa that the Red Cross rated the Sarpoza prison in Kandahar province where the Canadians were based — as the best of a bad lot in southern Afghanistan.

Colvin's June 2006 email outlined reasons the Dutch wanted to build a separate jail in Kandahar to hold detainees captured by Dutch, Canadian and British sol-THE CANADIAN PRESS

Calgarian makes a big find

ARCHEOLOGIST Long thought to have been full of mainly roots, fruit and nuts, Stone Age man's pantry may also have included wild cereal grains, research suggests.

Previously it was believed that prehistoric hunters gatherers 100.000 years ago didn't make a point of foraging for wild cereals. But the findings of archeologist Julio Mercader of the University of Calgary are changing that view. His work is being published in the Dec. 18 issue of the prestigious research journal Science.

"We know in other parts of the world that about 20,000 years ago, hunters and gatherers were experimenting and expanding diets and using sophisticated techniques to intensify and eat things that they did not eat before," Mercader says.

"It goes back at least

"We know in other parts of the world that about 20,000 years ago, hunters and gatherers were experimenting and expanding diets." Julio Mercader, archeologist

80,000 years further than we have evidence for until now."

Mercader's research, which he began in 2005, took him deep into the heart of Mozambique, where he had to gain the trust of locals who had deeply held beliefs in myth and magic.
"We found microscopic

grains that came from plants that middle Stone Age people brought into the cave," he says. "What we report is the use of grass seeds — mostly wild sorghum but also the African wine palm, the socalled African potato and the false banana ... a complete pantry."

Wild sorghum is the ancestor of the main cereal used today in sub-Saharan Africa for flours, breads, porridges and alcohol.

This could be considered one of the earliest examples of that dietary transformation, he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Teens get 2 years for murder plot

HALIFAX Two teens who plotted to corral students in a Winnipeg school auditorium and randomly open fire "until they got tired" have each been sentenced to two years in jail. The 17-year-old

and his 18-year-old girlfriend, who cannot be identified under court order, had pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit

They both apologized at a sentencing hearing in october. The young man screwed up."

At +1-

At the hearing, Crown and defence lawyers recommended the teens be sentenced to two years in jail, followed by three years on supervised probation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

COURT A Lower Sackville, N.S., man faces several charges after a Halifax regional police officer ended up in a brawl with a prisoner he was transporting. James David Brown, 30, will appear in court once he is released from hospital. Police say the officer was hit with a flashlight after stopping to check on the prisoner in the back of his car.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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8 canada

Judge rules against ban on gang colours

A judge has ruled a law banning the wearing of gang colours in Saskatchewan bars violates a person's right to freedom of expression. The case involved Jesse Bitz, 36, a member of the Hells Angels. Bitz was charged under Saskatchewan's Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act in 2007. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pot use worse than thought, study says

The effects of daily cannabis use on teenage brains is worse than originally thought and the long-term effects appear to be irreversible, new research from McGill University suggests.

The study, by Dr. Gabriella Gobbi, a psychiatric researcher from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, suggests that daily cannabis consumption can lead to depression and anxiety.

The new study, published in Neurobiology of Disease, suggests that the reputed "soft" drug has an impact on serotonin and norepinephrine, compounds which help control mood

and anxiety

Her research team observed that 18 rats exposed to cannabis had decreased levels of serotonin, which affects mood; and higher levels of norepinephrine, which makes one more susceptible long-term to stress.

"These permanent changes in the brain are also linked to certain mental illnesses, like schizophrenia," Gobbi said in an interview Thursday. "And we showed that even if we stopped the cannabis use at the end of adolescence, the changes were still de-

tectable in adulthood."
While past epidemiological studies have shown how cannabis consump-

tion can affect behaviour in some teenagers, Gobbi said the new study demonstrates that the effects are more devastating in teens compared to adults.

"Our study is one of the first to focus on the neurobiological mechanisms at the root of this influence of cannabis on depression and anxiety in adolescents," she said. Gobbi says the study reveals that because serotonin and norepinephrine systems are still in development during adolescence, cannabis interfere with their development.

"We don't know if some subjects would be more atrisk than others, including adults," said the McGill professor.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Robin Hood at Christmas time



A rehearsal shot of some of the stars in action during this year's Christmas pantomine, Robin Hood: The Environmental Family Musical, put on by Ross Petty in Toronto.

Stelmach says oilsands help Canada's economy

GREEN Ganging up on Alberta's polluting oilsands is becoming a national sport and it's on full display for the world in Copenhagen.

But what would the country look like if the cash flow pumped from the Western oil patch was suddenly turned off?

suddenly turned off?
With climate change

now morphing into a national-unity issue, angry defenders of Western oil argue that the provinces doing most of the environmental finger-pointing — namely, Ontario and Quebec — can only afford their own social programs and tax rates thanks to the gooey Alberta cash cow they love to disparage.

Alberta's premier Ed Stelmach says his province's oil-rich economy provides the rest of the country with about \$21 billion — which, by way of comparison, is more than all of Canada's \$18-billion defence budget, and about half of what Ontario spends on health care.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TORCH RUN The Olympic torch relay through Toronto was thrown off schedule on Thursday evening when about 100 anti-Olympic protesters blocked the street. Officials who were taking the

torch by convoy to Nathan Phillips Square in downtown Toronto were forced to change the route to get past the protest.

AVIATION The European Union on Thursday signed an

aviation deal with Canada that will allow airlines to operate flights from any European city to Canada and will phase out restrictions on foreign ownership of carriers.

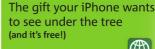
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Feds messing up math on pensions: Institute

Ottawa is not showing the true cost of pensions it gives employees, a think tank says.

And it should come clean before it starts reforming the retirement-income system, the C.D. Howe Institute says.

It says the federal debt would have climbed an additional \$58 billion over the past 10 years if Ottawa had valuated the pensions

Pension powwow

Finance ministers from all provinces and Ottawa are meeting in Whitehorse to negotiate how best to put retirement income for all Canadians on a steady

it offers public servants. In the last year alone, if Ottawa had done its math tions would have more than doubled the size of \$6-billion

"I wouldn't go as far as saying they're cooking the said Alexandre books," Laurin, senior policy analyst at the think tank.

"But the cost is greater than what the government is actually saying," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gay MP attacks 'bigots' in Christmas card furor

GREETINGS It has all the hallmarks of a politician's glossy Christmas card.

Pastoral setting? Check. Doe-eyed golden retriever? Check.

Handsome couple dressed in smart casual? Check.

Same-sex couple?

That was too much for "a handful of bigots" who objected to Scott Brison's greeting card depicting him and spouse Maxime St. Pierre, according to the Nova Scotia Liberal MP.

"The overwhelming response has been very positive," Brison said from Windsor, N.S. "There's always a very, very tiny minority of bigots."

At least one news website shut down its com-



The card: Scott Brison, Maxime St. Pierre and their dog, Simba.

ments section running under a story about the card.

But Matt Mills, editorial director of the gay news group Pink Triangle Press, said it's a mistake to block

"Our approach is that shutting down comments when there are homophobic remarks that come out really just drives that homophobia underground? THE CANADIAN PRESS

Red mittens warm Olympic coffers

OLYMPICS Nine months ago, there was nothing good about the colour red for the organizers of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

The economic collapse deepened and revenue stopped flowing in to match rising expenses.

Organizers were also in tense negotiations with governments and the International Olympic Committee over who was going to pay more for what.

Result: a deal between organizers and the IOC for a \$22-million payment.

But with just under two the months until slowly Olympics, red slowly seems to be returning as a symbol of pride for the 2010 Winter Games.

One million pairs of red Vancouver 2010 mittens

"People can't get enough of these things."

Dave Cobb

have been sold, allowing organizers to give the Own Podium program \$44 million.

The runaway success of sales speaks to the fact Canadians are finally engaging in the Games en masse, said Dave Cobb, deputy chief executive officer of the organizing com-

mittee known as VANOC. "Everywhere we go people can't get enough of these things (mittens)," said Cobb.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Investors bilked in Ponzi plot: RCMP

COURTS Three people have been charged in connection with an alleged \$3-million Ponzi scheme in southern

Ontario. RCMP say clients invested anywhere from \$10,000 to \$750,000 in a foreign exchange trading company called ForexBaron. which promised high rates of return on their invest-

Police identified 24 investors during a yearlong investigation.

Terrance McGill, 51, and Leeanne Houle, 41, both of Sombra, and John Paul Baron, 49, of Brooklin, are each charged with a total of 31 counts of fraud over \$5,000.

They will appear in Sar-nia court on Jan. 18.

McGill and Houle say they are innocent and hopeful they will be exonerated. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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December 18th until December 24th



10 canada

B.C. Ombudsperson wants more protection for seniors

B.C. Ombudsperson Kim Carter says the government needs to do more when it comes to protecting seniors in residential care.

Carter says she's looking for results from the government as opposed to promises. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Divorce law needs funds, experts say

COURTS Family law changes aimed at making divorce faster and less combative in Ontario are a good first step, but without more funding it's not clear how effective they will be, experts say.

A push to mediation and a streamlining of the court process could keep parents away from bitter courtroom battles, said Philip Epstein, a veteran family lawyer in Toronto.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fear rocks Quebec construction sites

Should there be a public inquiry into Quebec's construction industry?

Quebec has been bombarded by allegations of scams, involving construction companies, politicians, and the Italian Mafia, to suck down taxpayer cash.

With Ottawa now show-

With Ottawa now showering billions on the biggest infrastructure spending spree in Canadian history, there's potential the scandal might go federal in 2010.

Some whistleblowers have come forward to say some Quebec construction companies have formed a cartel to set shockingly high prices for infrastructure projects.

Companies are supposedly threatened if they refuse to play along and, according to one ground-breaking investigative report, some of the profits

"I'd taken some serious hits – cars getting rammed, trucks burning."

Paul Sauve, boss of a Montreal masonry company

are shared with the Mob and political parties.

But others in the industry counter that the problem is being overblown—that it is the handiwork of a small-but-powerful group of contractors who break the rules, but that it's not an industry-wide problem.

The chorus of demands for a public inquiry has been unrelenting.

They come with wild tales of intimidation, bidrigging, inflated contracts and organized crime.

"We don't know exactly what's there, but what's

being discussed in the media is very troubling," said Bertrand St-Arnaud, the Parti Québécois public security critic.

"A public inquiry will get to the bottom of all this and we feel that we have the support of the population, too."

A recent poll suggested nearly 80 per cent of Quebecers favour some sort of public inquiry.

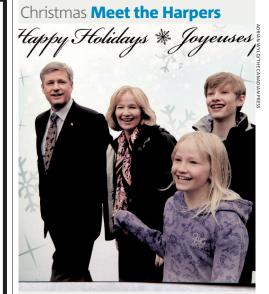
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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This is Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper's 2009 Christmas card with a picture of his family, wife Laureen, son Ben and daughter Rachel.

N.S. premier firm: Injury cap goes

ACCIDENTS Premier Darrell Dexter has reaffirmed his commitment to scrap Nova Scotia's \$2,500 cap on insurance awards for those who suffer minor injuries in auto accidents.

Dexter, in Copenhagen for the UN climate change talks, was responding to a report that suggested his NDP government was backing away from a previous commitment.

The premier says the cap will be scrapped.

He says the cap is unfair

because the province's legislation offers a broad definition of what constitutes a minor injury, which has left some people suffering from serious injuries with only \$2,500 in compensation for pain and suffering.

Dexter says a number of options remain on the table, including introducing a system that would allow insurance companies to deduct a certain amount from court-ordered awards for injuries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter says the \$2,500 cap on insurance awards is unfair.

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Ankle bracelet cut from former terror suspect

An electronic tracking bracelet was sliced from Hassan Almrei's ankle Thursday after the government decided not to contest a decision to free the former terror suspect. Lorne Waldman, Almrei's lawyer, said federal counsel opted not to try to pursue the matter in the appeal courts. The CANADIAN PRESS

Feds taking offers for AECL reactor division

The federal government is formally inviting offers as it seeks to privatize the nuclear reactor division of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.

In announcing the re-

quest for "investor proposals" Thursday, Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt pitched the sale of the heavily subsidized Crown corporation as an environmentally friendly,

emissions-free buy in a global market experiencing a nuclear renaissance.

The reactor division, said Raitt, "needs strategic investors to take full advantage of this opportu-

nity, strengthen its global presence and reduce the financial risks carried by taxpayers."

She touted Canada's nuclear industry as employing 30,000 people and

said the government is "committed to making sure these jobs are retained and more are creatad"

The research-andtechnology division of the Crown corporation, including the Chalk River laboratories and its troubled medical isotope production, are not part of the government sale.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Authorities say dead woman's family collected benefits

The daughter of an 87-year-old woman whose corpse was kept in her house for seven months after she died appeared in court in North Carolina Thursday. A sheriff's deputy said that the woman's family had continued to collect her government pension checks after she died. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World



Berlusconi released from hospital

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi was discharged from a Milan hospital on Thursday, four days after he was attacked by a mentally ill man at a political rally. The 73-year-old leader suffered a fractured nose and broken teeth in the attack. TV footage, left, of him leaving San Raffaele Hospital showed the conservative leader and media mogul with a white bandage around his nose and face as he waved weakly with one hand.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drought hammers East Africa again

AFRICA Millions of people in drought-stricken East Africa face hunger after seasonal rains failed again, withering crops, killing livestock and drying up ponds and streams, an aid group said Thursday, Oxfam said some areas had received less than five per cent of normal rainfall for November, African delegates in Copenhagen have repeatedly accused rich countries of polluting with greenhouse gases and then leaving underdeveloped countries to deal with the resulting

drought and starvation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Getting closer in Copenhagen?

U.S., China make progress as clock ticks away for global climate deal

Large pieces of a climate deal fell into place Thursday with new offers from the U.S. and China, but other tough issues remained before American President Barack Obama and other leaders can sign off on a political accord to contain the threat of an overheated world.

An announcement by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that the United States would contribute to a climate change fund amounting to \$100 billion US a year by 2020 was quickly followed by an offer from China to open its books on carbon emissions to international review.

The U.S. delegation did not immediately react to the offer by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei.

Go Green

But it went a long way toward the U.S. demand that China report on its actions to limit the growth of Beijing's carbon emissions and allow experts to go over its data. The sudden concessions on the eve of Friday's final session lifted hopes that the 193-nation conference could reach a framework agreement that could be refined into a legal accord next year on limiting greenhouse gas emissions and fighting climate change.

Obama and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao were to join more than 110 leaders Friday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Activists from Greenpeace gatecrash a State Dinner hosted by the Queen of Denmark Thursday. The activists were arrested.

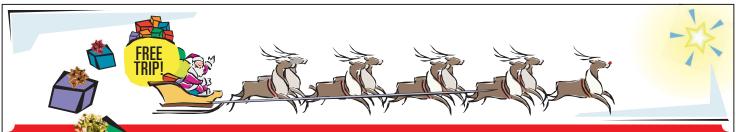
News in brief

IRELAND A Roman Catholic

bishop in Ireland has resigned after an investigation into child sex abuse by clergymen accused him of ignoring reports of crimes by priests in his diocese, the Vatican said Thursday. A statement Donal Murray read to colleagues in the western Irish city of Limerick left no doubt that he was going because of an Irish government investigation's damning findings about his time as an auxiliary bishop in Dublin from 1982 to 1996. **FRANCE** New airline safety standards may be required after the crash of Air France Flight 447 cast doubt on the reliability of speed-measuring equipment in stormy conditions, French investigators said Thursday. The Airbus A330 plunged into the Atlantic Ocean off Brazil in June, killing all 228 people

aboard. Accident experts still have little idea about why the

plane went down. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Good call

16 world

Fugitive doctor stabs self as police close in

An Indiana doctor on the run for five years on charges of fraud and malpractice was arrested on a snowy mountain in northern Italy, and stabbed himself in the neck as he was taken into custody, police said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. study shows a body language bias

ingeniously concocted experiments reported in Friday's journal Science, researchers show that white characters in TV series display far more negative body language toward their black peers than to members of their own race.

The bias conveyed by these body clues is not only recognized subconsciously by people who watch the shows, but significantly influences their feelings about the black characters.

"Sadly, we observed that non-verbal race bias is a typical pattern on scripted television shows," lead study author Max Weisbuch said in a release on the paper.

In the first experiment, researchers used clips from 11 different television programs — including Bones, Grey's Anatomy, CSI and Scrubs — and digitally removed one of the characters participating in the scenes. They then muted any onscreen conversations and recruited college students who had never seen the episodes to watch.

We took out the target character, who was either black or white, and the (remaining) character was always white," senior study author Nalini Ambady said.

"Then we just showed people and said 'how much does this person like the person they're interacting with?" said Ambady, a Tufts University social psychologist.

The student viewers, it was found, consistently judged the body language expressed by the visible white characters as more negative whenever the unseen character in the scene was black.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

BRAZIL The stepfather of a two-year-old boy found with 42 needles in his body confessed to jabbing them into the toddler during weeks of rituals with a woman he claimed received instructions through trances, Brazilian police said Thursday, Roberto Carlos Magalhaes, a 30-year-old bricklayer, told detectives that the woman who went into a trance would "command him to stick the needles in the boy's body," police inspector Helder Fernandes Santana said in a telephone interview. **BRITAIN** A Kurdish father has

been convicted and sentenced to life in prison for murdering his 15-year-old daughter because she fell in love with a follower of a different branch of Islam. A London judge gave Mehmet Goren, 49, a minimum 22-year prison sentence Thursday for his socalled "honour killing" of daughter Tulay, who disappeared a decade ago and was never found. He also was convicted of attacking her boyfriend with an axe. Police believe Tulay was killed in THE ASSOCIATED PRESS 1999.

Philippines Waiting out volcano



Evacuees cook their meals as lava cascades down the slopes of the Mayon volcano Thursday. Philippine security forces will forcibly evacuate thousands of residents reluctant to leave their farms near the smoldering volcano, officials said.

DNA exonerates man after 35 years in jail

FLORIDA James Bain made his first-ever cellphone call Thursday, dialling his elderly mother to tell her he had been freed after 35 years behind bars for a crime he did not commit.

Mobile devices didn't exist in 1974, the year he was sentenced to life in prison for kidnapping a nine-year-old boy and raping him in a nearby field.

Neither did the sophisti-cated DNA testing that officials more recently used to determine he could not have been the rapist.

Bain had spent more time in prison than any of

Wrongfully jailed

· Bain was convicted largely on the strength of the victim's witness identification, even though testing available at the time did not definitively link him to the crime. The boy picked Bain out of a photo lineup, although there are lingering questions about whether detectives steered

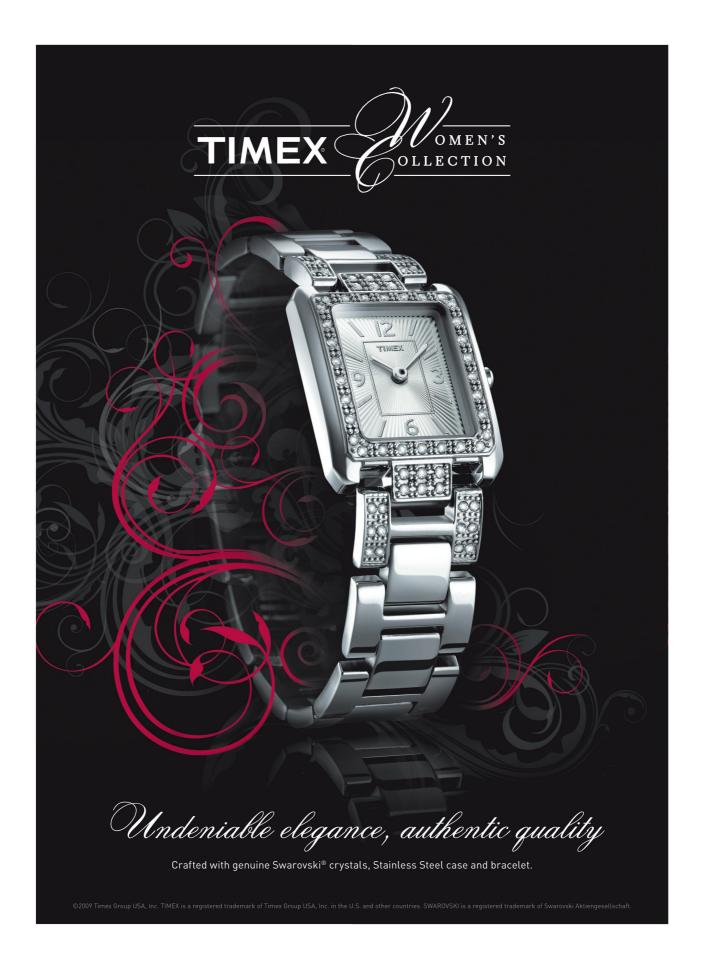
the 246 inmates previously exonerated by DNA evidence in the U.S., according to the Innocence Project of

Florida. As Bain walked free on Thursday, wearing a black T-shirt that said "Not Guilty," he spoke of his deep faith and said he does not harbour any anger.

"No, I'm not angry," he said. "Because I've got God."

The 54-year-old said he looks forward to eating fried turkey and drinking Dr Pepper. He said he also hopes to go back to school.

Lawyers from the Inno-cence Project of Florida got involved in Bain's case earlier this year after he filed several previous petitions asking for DNA testing.



18 world

Foreign adoptions plunge in U.S.

The number of foreign children adopted by American citizens dropped by 27 per cent in the 2009 fiscal year, reaching the lowest level since 1996, prompting adoption advocates to urge Congress to help reverse the trend. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spain to boost Afghan mission

SURGE Spain's defence minister has announced plans to send 511 more soldiers to Afghanistan in response to U.S. President Barack Obama's request for more help to fight the Taliban, Carme Chacon says most of the soldiers will train Afghan soldiers so the government can eventually fend for itself. It would raise the Spanish presence to more than THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Insurgents hacked into U.S. surveillance drones

INTELLIGENCE Insurgents in Iraq and Afghanistan have hacked into live video feeds from Predator drones, a key weapon in a Pentagon spy system that is the U.S. military's eyes in the sky for surveillance and intelligence collection.

Though militants could see the video, there is no evidence they were able to jam the electronic signals from the unmanned aerial craft or take control of the vehicles, a senior defence

official said Thursday, speaking anonymously.

Obtaining the video feeds can provide insurgents with critical information about what the military may be targeting, including buildings, roads and other facilities.

Shiite fighters in Iraq used off-the-shelf software programs such as SkyGrabber — available for as little as \$25.95 US on the Internet - to regularly capture drone video feeds, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday. The interception was possible because the remotely flown planes had unprotected communications links.

The military has found evidence of at least one instance when Afghan insuralso monitored gents drone video, a second defence official said. He had no details on how many times it was done in Afghanistan, or by which THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

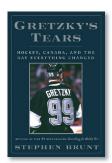


Owner Steve Horowitz, of Denver's Ganja Gourmet, where a whole pizza (made with THC-laced "cannabutter") costs \$89.

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A menu of mean munchies

Shop serves cannabis cuisine

Any slacker living over his parents' garage can make pot brownies, but gourmet chefs are taking the art of cooking with marijuana to a higher level.

In Denver, a new medical marijuana shop called Ganja Gourmet serves cannabis-infused specialserves ties such as pizza, hummus and lasagna.

Across town in the Mile-High City, a Caribbean restaurant plans to offer classes on how to make multi-course meals with pot in every dish. And in Southern California, a lowbudget TV show called Cannabis Planet has won fans with a cooking segment showing viewers how to use weed in teriyaki chicken, shrimp capelli-

ni, and steak sandwiches.
The evolution of pot cooking was perhaps inevitable given the explosion of medical marijuana in recent years. Many health-conscious patients would rather eat the drug than smoke it.

"When I started using marijuana, I was eating a brownie every day. I gained a ton of weight," said Michael DeLao, a former hotel chef who hosts Cannabis Planet on Los Angeles's KJLA.

"Then I learned how to really cook with marijuana, and once more people learn about all the possibilities, we're going to see a lot more people wanting this in their food."

Ganja Gourmet's menu includes lasagna ("LaGanja"), "Panama Red Pizza" and an olive tapenade called "ganjanade," along

"Our food is so great, you need a license to eat it!"

Gania Gourmet T-shirt

with sweets such cheesecake, muffins and brownies. Employees wear tie-dyed T-shirts that pro-claim, "Our food is so great, you need a license to

All patrons must show a medical marijuana card. And the food isn't chean A whole pizza sells for \$89; a dozen sweet treats called Almond Horns are \$120.

"The food is really good," said Jamie Hillyer, a 41year-old medical marijuana patient who paid \$12 for a serving of vegetable LaGanja. Hillyer said that he can't taste the weed in the food and that it gives him a "more mellow" buzz than smoking pot.

Chefs are able to use marijuana in cooking because its key ingredient, mind-altering drug THC, is fat-soluble, meaning it binds with oils or

Chefs put leaves or buds in a food processor and grind the marijuana into green flour. Then they add the flour to oil or butter, cook it slowly for up to a couple of days while the THC binds to the fat, and strain out the green flakes.

The result is "cannabutter." Two teaspoons contain about the amount of THC in an ounce of weed.

Customers are allowed one menu item every 45 minutes.

American pursues custody battle in Brazil

metro

An American father arrived in Brazil on Thursday, hoping to win a five-year WORLD 19 fight for custody of his son, who lives with relatives of his deceased wife. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. hunts drug cash

Every day, criminals shove money from U.S. drug sales in their shoes, tape it to their torsos, stash it under dashboards - or just wire it electronically to Mexico. It all adds up to \$25 billion a year.

A highly touted U.S. Treasury Department program aimed at starving Mexican drug cartels of that cash is currently blocking just \$3 million, an Associated Press investigation has found.

That's in addition to \$58 million seized under a new initiative at the U.S.-Mexico border. The figures suggest that \$99.75 of every \$100 the cartels ship south is getting through. The money is fuelling a war that has killed 14,000 in three years.

Bundles of \$100 bills that add up to billions are sneaked in each year and then laundered into ostensi-

Losing battle

• The U.S. has blocked \$16 million from Mexican drug cartels in the past decade. This pales next to the estimated \$25 billion in drug proceeds that are smuggled out of the U.S. each year.

bly legitimate funds at car dealerships, banks, pharmacies, restaurants and re-

That money pays Mexican farmers to grow more marijuana and Colombian smugglers to sneak in more cocaine. It bribes Mexican soldiers and U.S. border patrol agents, and pays assassins to kill rival smugglers or prosecutors.

This is the brilliance of the drug cartels. They pay ordinary people to get cash across the border for them,

and then easily launder it into working capital," said Louise Shelley, Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center director at George Mason University.

U.S. law enforcement agents have recently tried to get tough on controlling the money, searching southbound cars at the border and freezing bank accounts of cartel bosses.

"We recognize that focusing on drugs and weapons, without stopping the mon-ey, is not going to stop the cartels," said Assistant U.S. Treasury Secretary David Cohen

The Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act allows the president to designate individuals and corporations as drug traffickers, freezing their bank accounts and penalizing people for doing business with them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Froggy saved a Canadian officer will Canada now step in to save him?

Froggy cannot forget the horrific blast.

It was June 2008, as hundreds of Canadian and Afghan soldiers swept through villages in the dangerous Panjwaii district. Froggy, as always, was sticking close to the man he calls "my major."

A six-year medic in the Afghan National Army, Mohammad Rahman, 42, picked up his nickname because of his raspy voice. Sit-ting in a medic hut in Kandahar city, he takes a deep breath as he reaches back to that fateful June day.

The married father of seven was lured from the Afghan army when a Canadian officer promised him more than the \$300 US a month he was earning. He became an interpreter for the Canadian military.

That day, Edmonton-based Major Mark Campbell was part of the operational mentor and liaison team -Canadian soldiers who work closely with their Afghan counterparts. Froggy sat down to clean his socks and boots, urging Campbell to watch his step.



Interpreter Mohammad (Froggy) Rahman is seen in Kandahar on Thursday.

"When he stand up, then explosion," Froggy said, his voice falling to a hoarse whisper. As a medic, Froggy was used to treating horrific wounds. Nothing prepared him for this.

"I see my major — he lost one leg above the knee joint completely — no boots, no legs," he said, tears welling.

Froggy sprang into action. He applied what were likely life-saving tourniquets to the badly injured Campbell.

After some minutes, Campbell said, "Froggy, I'm sure I lost my legs," Froggy recalled.

"I said, 'No, sir, you're OK.'"

"'No, I'm OK but I lost both my legs.' He knew.'

Froggy never saw him again

As he finishes his story, Froggy talks about the one thing that scares him: The prospect of the Canadian

forces leaving him behind. His father, who died last month, and other relatives have received a dreaded "night letter" from the Taliban, warning he should quit his interpreter work or face death at their hands.

Froggy is pleading with the Canadian government to grant him, his wife, and their four daughters and three sons entry to Canada.

"I request from the gov-ernment of Canada ... to think of us, because we are working for Canadians very honestly," he said.

Campbell has recovered from his wounds. Froggy is now on his sixth boss Campbell, who still writes to him every few months, holds a special place.

"We stay like brothers," Froggy said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. hits militant targets in Pakistan

PAKISTAN Two U.S. missile strikes pummelled targets inside the main sanctuary used by al-Qaida and the Taliban along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, killing 17 people Thursday, local officials said.

The drone attacks came amid renewed political instability in Pakistan, with President Asif Ali Zardari facing calls for resignation after the Supreme Court struck down an amnesty that had protected him from corruption charges.

The missiles rained down on North Waziristan, a haven for many militant groups.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

HATE CRIMES The U.S. Justice Department brought 25 hate crime cases in the year ending in September, more than any vear since 2001. An Obama administration official said Thursday he was "shocked" by the drop-off in prosecutions during the Bush years. In 2006, only 12 were filed.



20 world

Ship sinks off Lebanese coast: Officer

A senior Lebanese army officer says a ship carrying 83 crew members has sunk off the Lebanese coast in stormy weather. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scientists see deep-sea eruption

Volcano explodes 4,000 feet beneath ocean's surface

Scientists have witnessed the eruption of a deep-sea volcano for the first time ever, capturing on video the fiery bubbles of molten lava as they exploded 4,000 feet (1,220 metres) beneath the surface of the Pacific Ocean.

Researchers are callling it a major geological dis-

covery.

A submersible robot witnessed the eruption during an underwater expedition in May near Samoa, and the high-definition videos were presented Thursday at a geophysics conference in San Francisco.

Scientists hope the images, data and samples obtained during the mission

will shed new light on how the ocean's crust was formed and how the Earth behaves when tectonic plates ram into each other.

"It was an underwater Fourth of July," said Bob Embley, a marine geologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Since the water pressure at that depth suppresses the violence of the volcano's explosions, we could get the underwater robot within feet of the active eruption."

The eruption was a spectacular sight: Bright-red magma bubbles shot up releasing a smoke-like cloud of sulphur, then froze almost instantly as they hit water. The ASSOCIATED PRESS

France A whale of a Christmas



A man dressed as Santa Claus poses with a killer whale named Valentin, at the Marineland aquatic park in Antibes, southeastern France, Thursday. Valentin was born in 1995 in the aquatic park and weighs 1,250 kilograms.

Remains of queen's palace discovered

CLEOPATRA Archeologists on Thursday hoisted a nineton temple pylon from the waters of the Mediterranean that was part of the palace complex of the fabled Cleopatra before it became submerged for centuries in the harbour of Alexandria.

The pylon, which once stood at the entrance to a temple of Isis, is to be the centrepiece of an ambitious underwater museum planned by Egypt to showcase the sunken city, believed to have been toppled into the sea by earthquakes in the 4th century.

Divers and underwater archeologists used a giant crane and ropes to lift the nine-ton, 7.4-foot-tall pylon, covered with muck and seaweed, out of the murky waters.

The pylon was deposited ashore as Egypt's top archaeologist, Zahi Hawass, and other officials watched. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gunmen on bikes kill son of military rep

HONDURAS Gunmen on motorcycles killed the son of a Honduran military spokesman and the driver of the taxi in which he was travelling on Thursday.

It was unclear if the

shooting of Edwin Canaca Mejia was related to his father's work as a wellknown face on an armysponsored television program. Honduras has high levels of violent street crime, and no motive was identified in Thursday's killings.

There have been several shooting attacks on government officials or their relatives since a June 28 coup ousted Honduras' president.

On Tuesday, gunmen on a motorcycle attacked the car of a Honduran television commentator who has backed the coup-installed government, missing her but killing her pregnant daughter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moms can't confirm court

PRISONERS The mothers of three Americans jailed in Iran say they haven't been able to confirm with Iranian authorities whether the three will be tried in court.

The families of Shane Bauer, Sarah Shourd and Josh Fattal say they were trekking in northern Iraq on July 31 when they al-

WasterGard VISA

legedly wandered into Iran and were arrested. Relatives say it was a harmless hike, but Iran's foreign minister said this week that the three would be tried in court.

The minister didn't specify charges, but an Iranian prosecutor has accused them of espionage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Comment & Views

Comment

Cultural coup for city



ust in case vou missed it Wednesday, Capital Power (the power generation company created by EPCOR) gave Edmontonians quite a nice Christmas present.

The new Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA) and Capital Power announced they have entered into a threeyear partnership that will allow the AGA to curate and exhibit works from the National Gallery in Ottawa. This is a first for a regional gallery.

So why am I so hyped about the AGA?

I think Brian Vaasjo,

president and chief executive officer of Capital Power, answered that question quite nicely at the announcement.

"We both started here when Edmonton was quite small. and

have grown with the city,"

"The AGA is much he said. "Now more than a we are both building. It's a embarking on a new stage of visible symbol our develop- of our movement ment. It is important for both of our or utilitarian Prairie ganizations to past ..."

be recognized locally, provincially, nationally and internationally for excellence and demonstrated commit-ment to community.

"We believe this threeyear partnership will be instrumental in helping both Capital Power and the AGA to achieve that goal."

The City of Edmonton often talks about sponsoring events such as the Indy because it will help "put Edmonton on the map." If you read this column regularly, you know how I feel about using taxpayer money for such things. Howev-

er, I think Capital the Power part-nership with the AGA will in fact help put Edmonton on the map least culturally.
Thanks to

Capital Power, Edmontonians, Albertans and other Western Canadians will be able to exhibitions experience they might otherwise not be able to see. Think Picasso, Degas, Goya and the

This announcement makes me quite proud of what my city is becoming. The AGA is much more than a building. It's a visible symbol of our movement away from our utili-tarian Prairie past and to-ward becoming a cosmopolitan 21st-century city. All major cities in the world have a least one world-class public art gallery and Edmonton is well positioned to join their ranks.

When the AGA opens in January, we will at long last have something we can take visitors to see other than West Edmonton Mall and the River Valley. I suspect the AGA will rapidly become a "must see" for visitors and Edmontonians alike.

The AGA opens with a two-day celebration starting Jan. 31, 2010. Free tickets will be available on the AGA's website. I am hop-ing that many Edmontonians take advantage of this opportunity.

Ference Harding is a corporate communicator He's a keen observer of all things Edmonton; edmontonletters@metronews.ca.



Worth mentioning

NASA, Google offer ways to track greenhouse gases

The question is a potential deal-killer: If nations ever agree to slash greenhouse gas emissions, how will the world know if they live up to their pledges?

The answer is in space,

Go

Green

experts say - both outer space and cyberspace.

NASA, the wonder

agency of the 1960s, and Google, the go-to company of the early 21st century, are trying to give the world the ability to monitor both the carbon dioxide pollu-tion and the levels of forest destruction that contribute to global warming.

"Just having the thing flying around there imaging would just about make everybody act differently,'

said Prof. Steve Pacala, director of the Princeton Environmental Institute. "The idea that you could pull a fast one would be different '

The monitoring problem

"is a big one because we don't know what we're counting,

said Melinda

Kimball, senior vice-president of the UN Foundation.

Google, meanwhile, has rolled out a new program call Earth Engine, which essentially is a massive storehouse for satellite and other data that forest countries will be able to access for free by the time of the next UN climate conference in Mexico next year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Views

Girls and women: No limits on dreams

"Canada must take



Belinda Stronach

Over the past generation our society has made considerable progress in reducing barriers to women's success. Yet, de-spite our progress, troubling inequalities persist and affect the lives of millions of girls and young women around the world.

In developing countries, one person in eight is a girl or a young woman age 10 to 24. As the fastest growing segment of the population, their welfare is a fundamental input for key economic and social outcomes. Giving these girls an education, legal protection, health care, and access to training and job skills will significantly contribute to what is known

as the girl effect on development. A girl who finishes high school has access to a job that pays more than subsistence wages

and the chance to start a small business. Edu- the lead and call cated women to put girls and invest 90 per cent of their women at the incomes into centre of the their families, development compared to 30 narrative." roughly per cent by

their male counterparts.

The gap between what we know and what we do. between our ability to end poverty and our efforts to do so lie at the heart of the problem. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) challenge the world's leading economies to meet targets framed in results-oriented terms. MDG 3, for example, calls to promote gender equality and empower women. The target was to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary ed-

ucation by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015 Four after vears the 2005 target date, gender parity in education has yet to be

As Canada prepares to host the G8 and G20 summits in June 2010, we must use this historic opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the advancement of girls and women worldwide. Canada must take the lead and call to put girls and women at the centre of the development narrative. Doing so will

yield huge returns in the health of families, peace building, and global economic development.

On this critical issue Canada will be standing together with governments such as Spain and the Netherlands, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations, global foundations and the private sector in responding to the mounting evidence that investing in girls will break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and, conversely, failure to do so could cost the world's poorest countries billions in economic growth.

For more information on how the NGO community is coming together on this please issue. www.girlsandwomen.com.

Belinda Stronach is chair of the Belinda Stronach Foundation

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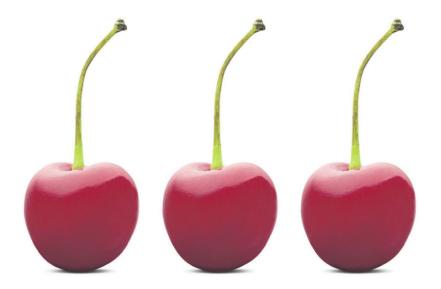


The percentage of Canadian homeowners who think that when companies call a product "green," it is usually just a marketing tactic

IPSOS REID

WHAT YOU'RE THINKING

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British Airways to fly over holidays

British Airways has won an emergency court injunction to stop a 12-day strike by its cabin crew, bringing relief to around one million travellers whose Christmas holiday plans were threatened by the planned walkout. The High Court backed BA's claim that the ballot of around 13,000 workers by the Unite labour union was illegal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Inflation jumps to one per cent Second straight month of rising prices reverses negative slide

Canadians are again start-ing to pay more for most things they consume as the inflation rate jumped to one per cent in November, the second straight month prices have risen sharply.

While higher gasoline prices were mostly to blame, Statistics Canada said the advance was broadbased. Prices rose in seven of eight major components tracked by the agency, and in all 10 provinces.

As well, the month-to-

month index was higher with prices rising 0.5 per cent from October.

The last two months have seen a complete reversal in the inflation story in Canada, which previously was one of falling prices and negative inflation

But a rapid decline in gas prices from record highs in July 2008 has reversed the trend, the agency said.

"Prices at the pump are now exerting upward pres-sure on the Consumer Price Index after an extended pe-

Inflation rate by city

- •Halifax, 1.7 (-0.3) •Montreal, 1.8 (0.7)
- Ottawa, 1,1 (0,4)
- Toronto, 0.8 (0.3)
- •Edmonton, 1.1 (0.4) •Calgary, 0.6 (0.1) •Vancouver, 0.2 (-0.6)
 - THE CANADIAN PRESS

riod in which they were the main contributors to yearover-year declines in overall consumer prices," agency explained.

In November, gas prices were 14.1 per cent higher than at the same time last year and 13.1 per cent lower in October from the previous year.

Other components pushing prices higher were food, transportation, household operations, and furniture and equipment.

In addition, consumers paid 7.8 per cent more for car insurance and 3.2 per cent more for health and personal care.

Meanwhile, the cost of passenger vehicles fell six per cent, and shelter costs declined 1.7 per cent as natural gas prices were almost 30 per cent lower this year than last. The mortgage interest costs were also well below last year by four per cent.

Overall, the trend of inflation is unlikely to worry the Bank of Canada as most

price increases remain tame. Food, which had been a major driver of price increases, gained only 1.7 per cent in November, the smallest increase since April 2008.

Core inflation, which the central bank closely tracks because it represents underlying inflation pressures, was actually lower in November at 1.5 per cent, compared to 1.8 per cent in October. That is well below the central bank's two per cent THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shoppers spending: Survey

Recession. What recession? A new survey finds that despite the economic downturn, Canadian shoppers are opening their wallets a lot wider this year than last.

Moneris Solutions Corp., a debit and credit card payments processor, says its figures show sales are up leading into the last weekend before Christmas.

Moneris The survey tracks national sales in the final five weeks of the preholiday season.

It says in the first week-

end of December, shoppers spent five per cent more overall, with department stores the clear winner as sales shot up 12.8 per cent.

Last weekend it was the turn of apparel retailers as they rang in an 11.4 per cent increase in sales amid an overall six per cent increase in retail business compared with last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Shaolin monks Foray into market



In this image released by China's Xinhua News Agency Thursday, students of the kungfu school perform shaolin kungfu (martial arts) at the Shaolin Temple in Dengfeng. The famed fighting monks of Shaolin temple plan a foray into modern finance. The local government entity that manages the 1,500-year-old Buddhist temple's tourism-related assets, plans to join with China Travel Service in a venture that will seek to raise up to 1 billion yuan (\$146.4 million US) in a share listing on either a mainland market or in Hong Kong, reports said Thursday.

Economists forecast rebound in 2010

GROWTH Economists at some of Canada's largest banks say the Canadian and world economies will continue to rebound out of recession next year.

The economists predict global growth will rise by as much as four per cent

overall in 2010. But unlike previous upswings, they say the global recovery will be spearheaded by growth in emerging economies, with industrialized countries lagging behind.

The Canadian economy is expected to grow by about 2.6 per cent.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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If Tiger Woods and his Swedish wife get divorced, Elin Nordegren won't be the only one collecting on the settlement. British bookmaker William Hill is taking bets on just how much Nordegren will get if she decides to divorce Woods. Bettors can get 25-1 odds that Nordegren will receive more than half a billion dollars. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



sports



Bombers coach arrested, fired

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers have fired head coach Mike Kelly after one turbulent . Bombers board chairman Ken Hildahl made the announcement Thursday night, the same day Kelly was arrested in Pennsylvania in an alleged domestic dispute. Police in Bridgeport, Pa., said they arrested Kelly after responding to a domestic disturbance at his home Thursday morning. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bengals' Henry dies from injuries

NFL Chris Henry was no stranger to trouble.

Indeed, his multiple arrests during a five-year NFL career were among the factors prompting the league to toughen its personal conduct policy.

But to hear his teammates tell it the team's owner — the Cincinnati Bengals receiver was determined to leave behind his troubled past and move ahead toward a bright



future. Tragically, his efforts

were cut short when he died from injuries in what police said was a domestic

dispute with his fiancée.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police said the 26-year-old Henry died early Thursday, less than 18 hours after he fell off of the back of a pickup truck on a curvy residential street about eight miles northwest of downtown Charlotte.

The cause of death was not immediately released. Henry was away from the

Bengals after suffering a season-ending broken forearm in a game last month.

"We knew him in a different way than his public persona," Bengals owner Mike Brown said. "He had worked through the troubles in his life and had finally seemingly reached the point where everything was going to blossom. And he was going to have the future we all wanted for him."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hornqvist nets two as Preds win



Patric Hornqvist had two goals and an assist as the Nashville Predators defeated the Edmonton Oilers 6-3 on Thursday night.

Ryan Jones, Joel Ward, Jerred Smithson and Marcel Goc also scored for the Predators (21-11-3), who overcame an early deficit to win their third game in a row. Nashville is 5-0-1 in its last six games and tied for first place in the Western Conference's Central Division with Chicago.

Robert Nilsson replied

with a pair of goals and Lubomir Visnovsky added the other for the Oilers (15-15-4), who have lost two in a row since returning home from a five-game winning streak on the

Edmonton started strong, striking first on the power play three minutes in as Nilsson threaded the needle between a pair of Preds defenders and chipped a shot off of the arm of Nashville starter Pekka Rinne.

Two minutes later it was 2-0 as the rebound off of a Gilbert Brule shot was accidentally kicked Nashville's Kevin Klein right to a pinching Vis-novsky, who pounded in his eighth of the year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Edmonton Oiler Gilbert Brule puts a shot on the blocker of Nashville Predators goalie Pekka Rinne at Rexall Place on Thursday night. The Predators won 6-3.

Many of our best athletes aren't household names



very time the Lou Marsh Award pops up all Canadian sports fans get an eye-opener.

There's a ton of talent out there.

The mystery is why most of the candidates that make it to the final ballot for consideration as Canada's athlete of the year are anonymous to most people in this country.

This year, Sidney Crosby,

the brilliant captain of the Stanley Cup champion Pittsburgh Penguins, captured the prize named after the late Toronto Star sports editor — an award that dates back to 1936 and whose recipients have included Wayne Gretzky, Barbara Ann Scott, Catriona Le May Doan and Mike

For Crosby it's a second victory, and well-deserved, considering he's the best Canadian hockey player alive and led his team to arguably the most difficult championship to capture in North American professional sport. Just about everybody knows Sid the Kid's name.

The same is true of Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns.

m.metrenews.ca



Scan this harcode for the most recent

a perennial finalist because he's the best playmaker in big-time basketball.

But that's where the familiarity gets fuzzy.

It's a revelation to discover that Canada also boasts sluggers like Jason Bay and Justin Morneau, each capable of more than 100 RBIs in Major League Baseball. Or that Daniel Nestor, the best doubles player in tennis, hails from

north of the border.

If you dig deeper you understand that world champions like Christine Nesbitt of speedskating, John Kucera of alpine skiing, Jasey Jay Anderson of snowboarding and Alexandre Bilodeau of freestyle skiing also bleed red and white

This is to say nothing of swimmer Ryan Cochrane, who won two medals at the world aquatics championships, or Priscilla Lopes-Schliep, a hurdler who captured silver at the world track and field summit.

They are Canadians close to the pinnacle of the most contested sports on the face of the Earth.

The names already mentioned barely scratch the surface

There are golfers, mixed artists, martial skaters and football players who also deserve consideration

There are so many jewels of Canadian sport we have yet to fully appreciate. Maybe we should should make the Lou Marsh Award more than a onedeliberation seems so fleeting.

Perhaps we should make it more inclusive and spark a national celebration, so that all Canadians might uncover our hidden treasures of sport.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

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Holiday cheer

Catch the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra's Christmas concert, A Very Merry Pops, tonight and tomorrow at 8 p.m. at Winspear Centre. For more, go to edmontonsymphony.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday



Yuletide showcase

Edmonton singer-songwriter Mae Anderson, 16, will be presenting a Yuletide showcase, along with guitarist Joel Lavoie, on the HMV stage at West Edmonton Mall today from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more, visit wem.ca.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

he 12 wines of Christmas

Who said choosing a wine to go with turkey, stuffing, gravy, vegetables, cranberry sauce and every other edible family tradition has to be hard?

White wines

Domaine Chandon Brut Classic, \$23.99-

Forget New Year's (for now); sparkling wines are super food-friendly and this American wine — made with a champagne sensibility — will add excitement to any holiday meal.

2Caymus Vineyards 2007 Conundrum, \$24.95-\$29.99

Sauvignon blanc is only

one piece of this tasty multi-grape puzzle that twists refreshing tropical flavours around a lasting core of fresh white fruit.

Wolf Blass 2008 Yellow Label Riesling, \$13.99-\$16.99

Tis the season for German riesling, but New Worlders like this Aussie tend to be a tad drier, making them even more appealing with a wide variety of food

J. Lohr 2007 Riverston Chardon-\$19.05-\$23.79

Heavily oaked chards are passé, so J. Lohr has soft-ened its Riverstone persona by toning down the wood and playing up the citrus, which works better

Oyster Bay 2008 Marlborough Sauvi-gnon Blanc, \$17.99-

Thick, rich and full-figured. Oyster Bay is a textured wonder from New Zealand that cozies up to white (and most red) meats

Mezzacorona 2008 Pinot Grigio, \$12.95-

Crisp and crowd-pleasing; pinot grigio is an all-purpose grape with Mezzacorona's interpretation a great mate for sweet, earthy and vegetal flavours.

Red wines

Boekenhoutskloof 2008 The Wolftrap, \$14.99

The Wolftrap's a funky South African blend that's got enough muscle to

drumstick wrestle turkey and plenty of fruit to fend off forward side dishes.

Kim Crawford 2008 Marlborough Noir,

Pinot is a historic match for both roast poultry and ham with Mr. Crawford's big, bright version a vinto vintage winner thanks to layers of strawberry fruit.

Ravenswood 2007 Vintners Blend Zinfandel, \$17.95-\$19.99

Zinfandel's typical mix of creamy chocolate and ripe berry fruit complexity is a fine companion for turkey especially when the gravy boat drops anchor.

Ruffino 2006 Il Ducale Toscana,

Cherry fruit, soft spice and juicy, flowing flavours all marry to make sangiovese-based wines like the Il Ducale a classic pick with the gobbler and eclectic holiday choices like lamb, veal and pizza.

2008 Casillero del Diablo Shiraz, \$12.95-

Chile knows how to squeeze some major spice and concentrated red fruit out of shiraz, and this Diablo makes nice with both turkey and anything beefy.

2Georges Duboeuf 2008 Beaujolais-Villages,

Though a red Burgundy or merlot-based Saint-Émilion



from Bordeaux both love turkey, when it comes to a French companion I'm all about Beaujolais. Fresh and super fruity (especially when lightly chilled) they pair with everything and evervone.

* Prices reflect the range across the country.

Peter Rockwell is Metro's wine columnist. Check out his Liquid Assets column on Tuesdays or online at metronews.ca/liquidassets

with turkey anyway.

How to host the perfect soiree

JANINE FALCON for Metro Canada

One key to a great party is a theme, says entertaining expert Ryan Jennings.
"This time of year there

are a few built-ins Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanza, New Year's — but without a focus, even designing around those can be daunting.'

But be not daunted. Jennings has 10 successfulsoiree tips.

Start with colour. "Red, silver, gold, blue, black, white — choose one and plan invitations, decorations, cocktails, food, attire, even makeup, around it," suggests Jennings.

Giving is a theme. "Invitations, decor and food can all be designed around gifting, presents, or wrapping. Ask guests to bring a donation for a charity instead of a hostess

Choose tunes. Jennings says a soundtrack sets the mood of your evening. with ambient lounge music and progress into more upbeat and danceable tunes. And mix in a few holiday classics."

Outsource supplies. "Glassware, dishes and



When planning a party, choose a colour, such as silver, and plan around it.

linens are relatively inexpensive to rent, and they show up clean and go away dirty," notes Jennings.

Pre-prep drinks. "Mix pitchers of cocktails, minus the ice and anything bubbly. Refrigerate until needed, then pour into ice-filled glasses and top with soda or champagne if

Make non-drinkers feel special too. Jennings is the spokesperson for Bombay Sapphire and also co-author - with David Steele — of Entertaining with Booze: Designer Drinks, Fabulous Food & Inspired Ideas for Your Next Party (Whitecap, 2008), but insists on having a virgin cocktail at

the ready, served in appropriate glassware.

Make space. "Move chairs, tables, anything that impedes party flow," he says. "Roll up rugs, stash the fragile, and clear space for chat circles and a possible dance floor." As well, "Think dimmer switches and candlelight."

Get a crew if necessary. "Dinner parties larger

than 12 and cocktail parties in excess of 30 are too much for one person," says Jennings. "You'll need one or two people to help man the ovens, pass hors d'oeuvres and clear mess, as well as a savvy mixologist friend to stir up cocktails. You should be mingling with guests, not stuck in the kitchen.'

Stagger the food. "Dividing hors d'oeuvres and buffet items in half and bringing them out in stages ensures that latecomers get fed and the buffet looks fresh throughout the evening.

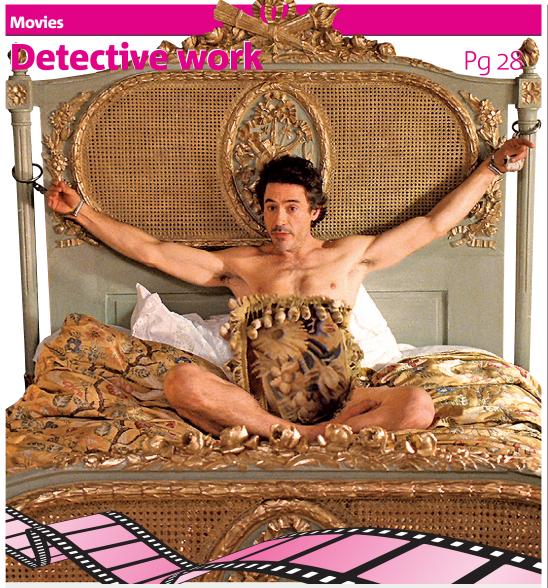
Stay sober so you can make appropriate decisions," sions," says Jennings. "Keep an eye on guest alcohol consumption, have plenty of food available and keep a list of taxi numbers by the phone.'



Weekend, December 18-20, 2009 metronews.ca

Visit Metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, read reviews and watch trailers.

Movies&Entertainment



Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law team up for the most recent film version detailing the antics of famous detective Sherlock Holmes. For his part, Downey Jr. says he went back to historical source material to convey an accurate portrayal.



Avatar is a truly immersive experience, says reviewer.



Jackson's guitarist Orianthi Panagaris has a new album.



TV set decorators talk festive trinkets and knickknacks.



28 movies&entertainment

At a glance

Avatar 🕮 🕮 ½, Did You Hear About The Morgans 🖦 ½.

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Downey in the groove for Sherlock

NED EHRBAR Metro World News

Robert Downey Jr. has an admittedly difficult history with London. "I was here 20 years ago and the food sucked," he says, though he's quick to add, "I kind of sucked 20 years ago. Far be it from me to say what was good when and where. I barely remember any of it." But with his new Sherlock Holmes set for release next week, he's feeling better about all things British.

In bringing a new version of the famous detective to the screen, Downey was expecting more of the pressure of history. "It's funny. Sherlock Holmes would be the one you'd think has the most onus on it," he says of the characters he's played. But during filming, he insists he got the distinct feeling they were doing everything right. "Sometimes you just feel like you're in the right groove, and you



Robert Downey Jr. couldn't have asked for a better co-star than Jude Law, he says.

feel the history and the legacy of something," he says. "Sometimes you just feel like you're being silently approved of from some other place and time"

A key element in rounding out Holmes was finding a Watson he worked well

with, and Downey insists he couldn't have asked for a better co-star than Jude Law. "I'm used to people saying, 'Well, you and so-and-so, who's female, have this great chemistry," Downey says. "They're talking about Jude and I like we should be doing roman-

tic comedies together."

While Downey's Holmes might not be something audiences necessarily find familiar, the actor insists it's a more accurate portrayal. "We were reinterpreting that character by actually going back to the source material — what he looked like, how he behaved, that he was a martial artist," Downey says.

While talk of martial arts and fighting has several Hollywood observers nervous, it was the bare-knuckle boxing scene that sealed the deal for Downey. "By the time we were done

On the web



• For movie photos, trailers and screen times or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

shooting that scene, I felt like we really had a handle on the movie," he says. "Not because we finally top-lit me and I showed my rippling abs and all that self-important garbage, but because it was a really bold thing and it could've gone really poorly, in which case the rest of the movie is trying to recover from a bad Guy Ritchie idea. But it was literally perfect, and I think it set the tone."

Looking forward, Downey is more than happy to be tied up with a successful pair of franchises. "Ideally, the Iron Man thing will pan out another time or two, a bit of Avengers going on. I have a feeling Sherlock is going to make a comeback. I think it's going to be well-received and do business."





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*According to an independent consumer survey conducted in November 2009.



30 movies&entertainment

lo more Wild Hogs 2

Disney has cancelled plans for Wild Hogs 2: Bachelor Ride, a sequel to 2007's unlikely hit. It was to start shooting next year with John Travolta, Tim Allen, Martin Lawrence and William H Macy all in negotiations to reprise their roles. IMDB.COM

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Gilliam's homage to Heath Ledger

RICHARD CROUSE for Metro Canada

The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus is a flight of fancy that was very nearly grounded in mid production. The untimely death of star Heath Ledger in January 2008 almost put the brakes on the film until Terry Gilliam had an idea: Why not continue filming with three of the late actor's friends taking his place?

"I just started calling friends of Heath," Gilliam said. "It's as simple as that. Johnny (Depp), Colin (Farrell) and Jude (Law) turned up. It was important that they were friends, because I wanted to keep it in the family. I wanted people who were close to him because, as Colin said when he was doing his part, he was channelling Heath part of the time, so Heath was very much still alive in some sense.

"I didn't know whether this would work until I got



 $Heath\ Ledger's\ untimely\ death\ almost\ halted\ production\ of\ Terry\ Gilliam's,\ inset,\ film\ The\ Imaginarium\ of\ Doctor\ Parnassus\ —\ that\ is\ until\ Ledger's\ friends\ stepped\ in.$

back to London. We were working on autopilot. Working because that's what we decided to do and we got back to London and I showed the first cut to the post-sound guy, who hadn't been involved in the process, and he just assumed it was written that way. I thought, 'It works.'" Co-star Christopher

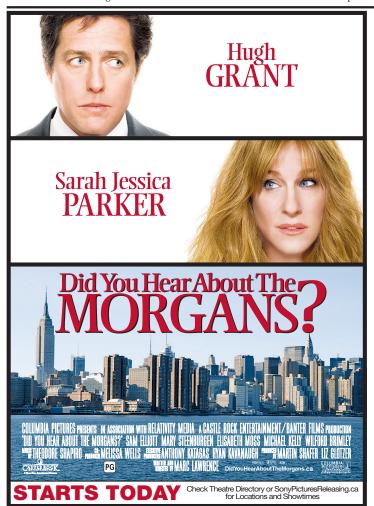
Plummer says he thinks it works better than the original script.

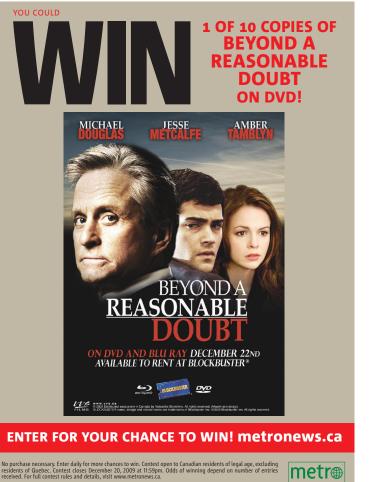
"The audience needs to be rejuvenated at the eleventh hour and they are by the presence of the three guys," he said. "I think Heath would have thoroughly approved of that and probably have been relieved not to go, 'OK fellas, it's time I had a break."

One of Heath's co-stars, however, had a harder time accepting the loss and the replacements. Lily Cole says she cried on the first day of shooting without Ledger, but soon realized that by stepping in Depp, Farrell and Law were doing a "brave and lovely thing" to honor the late actor.

Gilliam agrees, viewing the finished film as homage to Ledger. A credit where the director's name usually sits is a tribute to the late actor and the respect he earned.

"Contractually, it was supposed to be a Terry Gilliam Film," he said. "That's what the lawyers said, but I said, 'No way it's going to be that. It's going to be a film from Heath Ledger and friends.' The cast sat around one night and that idea came up and I said, 'This is it. Perfect. That's how we do it.'"





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Oscar song nominee

Sixty-three songs from eligible feature-length motion pictures are contending for nominations in the Original Song category for the 82nd Academy Awards, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Wednesday.

Reel Time

●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR



Cameron's Avatar: Worth the wait

Avatar

NED EHRBAR Metro World News

The best word to describe watching James Cameron's long-awaited Avatar is, overwhelming. The tech-savvy director has created a truly immersive experience, utilizing 3-D and motion capture technology to create the brand-new, vibrant world of Pandora, and its slender, yellow-eyed, blueskinned inhabitants, the Na'vi.

The smartest thing Cameron does is keep the story simple. It's something we've seen before: A native population stands in the way of the goals of an invading force — in this case, humans led by a greedy corporate honcho (Giovani Ribisi) and a marine colonel (Stephen Lang) displaying Apocalypse Now levels of menage

As Sam Worthington's Jake is sent, via a human/Na'vi hybrid body (or avatar), to infiltrate the Na'vi, he falls in love with one of their own (Zoe Sal-



Avatar, staring Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana, is described by our reviewer as mesmerizing.

dana) and takes their side. With an unchallenging story, Cameron leaves plenty of room for the technical splendor to do the heavy lifting, and he strikes a great balance.

The film isn't perfect, of course. Some of the exchanges and declarations are rather clunky, as dialogue was never really Cameron's strong suit. And

there are several less-thansubtle criticisms of Bush administration foreign policy — something that apparently can happen when it takes five years to complete a film. But the overall effect is mesmerizing and well worth the wait.

• For an Avatar trailer, photos, and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

The Morgans is a forgettable rom-com

Did You Hear About The Morgans

PHIL BROWN for Metro Canada

In general Hollywood romantic comedies are unbelievable star vehicles with reheated plotlines

the first scene.

Expectations have to be lowered for most movies of this type because rom-com audiences simply don't want deviations in the established formula. However, from time to time some-

thing like Did You Hear About The Morgans comes

that are predictable from

along that is so ludicrous and clichéd that even people who enjoy these sorts of movies have to admit it's a failure.

Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker star as an estranged married couple and will surprise no one by appearing as a befuddled British lawyer and wealthy go-getter New Yorker respectively. One night, while trying to rebuild their bonds, they somehow witness a murder and end up in the witness protection program.

The couple are sent to Wyoming to stay with a cute country cop husband and wife team played by Sam Eliot and Mary Steenburgen. Do you think there's a chance that this troubled big city couple might work out their marital woes as they learn love



Hugh Grant plays a befuddled British lawyer in Did You Hear About The Morgans.

simple country life?

There's no semblance of reality here, it's a universe governed by clichés. If anyone asks, you haven't heard anything about the Morgans and want nothing to do with them.

• For a Did You Hear About The Morgans trailer, photos, screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies. For the latest information, visit us at gm.ca, drop by your local Pontiac Buick GMC Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE; \$1,000 holiday bonus cash is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) available on all 2009/2010 Pontiac Buick GMC credit only. 0% purchase financing available for 7260/36 months on 2009 Pontiac 55 (1SM)/XIbe (1SQ), Dobwn payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending to a straight of the sele. Select trade may be required. Monthly payment is \$138.89/45166.67/5277.73. Cost of full obligations is \$10,000 at 0% for 7260/36 monthly payment is \$138.89/45166.67/5277.73. Cost of full obligations is \$10,000 at 0% for 7260/36 monthly payment is \$138.89/45166.67/5277.73. Cost of full obligations is \$10,000 at 0% for 7260/36 monthly payment is \$138.89/45166.67/5277.73. Cost of full obligations is \$10,000 at 0% for 7260/36 monthly payment is \$138.89/45166.77/257.77. The cost of 2009/200 at 0% for 7260/36 monthly payment is \$10,000 at 0% for 80.87 fo

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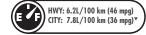
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Daryl Hannah says no to plastic cups

Daryl Hannah wants everyone to ditch plastic cups. The 49-year-old actress — who is a long-time environmental activist and has been arrested several times — said she wants the world to become more aware of the environment. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Hudson sounds off in film Nine

Movie **feature**

AARTI VIRANI Metro World News

The last time we were treated to the vocal stylings of Kate Hudson — really more of a warbled rendition of You're So Vain in 2003's How To Lose A Guy in 10 Days — we didn't necessarily want more. But the actress executes an impressive double play as she shimmies and croons (soulfully, might we add) in Rob Marshall's latest film,

As one of the seven bigname beauties gracing Marshall's epic musical about the mid-life crisis of a prolific 1960s Italian film director, Guido Contini (Daniel Day-Lewis), Hudson shares the limelight with a constellation of muses: Nicole Kidman, Penelope Cruz, Marion Cotillard, Ju-

di Dench, Stacy (Fergie) Ferguson and Sophia Loren. She plays Stephanie, a sultry American Vogue journalist, smitten with all things Italian — Contini included.

But even though Hudson certainly exudes mystique during her catchy, poptinged number, Cinema Italiano, it didn't necessarily come naturally. "I've come out of a con-

"I've come out of a contemporary jazz background but there are no flexed feet or pirouettes here," she admits. "It's a very difficult song to sing—fast, articulate and belty. It took Rob (Marshall) to sort of push that out of me... and I wasn't going to let him down."

Curtain calling

While growing up in Colorado, Hudson spent many an afternoon reenacting a slew of musicals, including Meet Me in St. Louis, Bye Bye Birdie, and her all-time

A day's work

• When describing a scene where her character unabashedly fawns over Guido at a bar, Hudson admits it wasn't love at first site. "We got to get drunk. We were laughing, with stools flying all over the place. I didn't get the agonized Guido," she shares, almost relieved. "I think Stephanie is just intrigued by his mystique."

favorite, Annie.

"I didn't want to be Annie as much as I wanted to play Annie," she says. As to whether she's passed the performer genes on to her six-year-old son, Ryder, she's not sure, though he did insist on dressing up as a one-man Mariachi band this past Halloween. "He wanted to wear the big sombrero," she says sheepishly. "And he still wears the outfit."



Kate Hudson sings and dances alongside Daniel Day-Lewis in Nine





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St. Albert Centre

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Hathaway in car crash

Anne Hathaway was involved in a traffic collision in Los Angeles Wednesday afternoon. The 27-year-old movie beauty was sitting on the passenger seat of a car driven by her actor boyfriend, Adam Shulman, when the vehicle collided with a cyclist. **ACESHOWBIZ.COM**

Reel Time

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

James Cameron is not the only perfectionist in the film industry



n the gap between James Cameron's last theatrical feature, Titanic, and his new film, Avatar (in theatres this weekend) Clint Eastwood directed 11 movies, Michael Bay made six and even Uwe Boll, a director so reviled an online petition demands he stop making films, has made 15 in the time it took Cameron to make just one.

So what's the hold up? Some suggest Cameron takes so long between gigs because his commitment to his projects is so intense he wants to be sure he is on the right track before camera starts to roll.

"I want you to know one thing," he allegedly told one producer, "once we embark on this adventure and I start to make this movie, the only way you'll be able to stop me is to kill me."

Also, Cameron isn't bound by the same considerations as most directors

He wrote the script for Avatar in 1994 and was prepared to wait until special effects technology caught up with his vision.

The luxury of having time is what happens when you make the highest grossing movie in history, a fact he celebrates, wearing a t-shirt that reads "Time Means Noth"Once we embark on this adventure and I start to make this movie, the only way you'll be able to stop me is to kill me."

James Cameron

ing in the Face of Creativi-

Like Cameron, Stanley Kubrick spent more time off movie sets than on. In a career that spanned 46 years he made only 13 movies but spent years developing pictures that never went into production — like Napoleon, an epic look at the life of the French Emperor that he expected to be "the best movie ever made."

Others choose long lay-

offs between projects for different reasons. Actor Casey Affleck (Ben's younger brother) had three movies released in 2007 but nothing else scheduled until 2010. Why the break?

"To be perfectly honest, I don't really enjoy playing anybody." he says, "except Casey Affleck lying on the couch watching the Red Sox ... usually, when I'm working, I'm not really having a good time."

Then there's Daniel Day-Lewis, an actor whose lapses between projects makes Affleck look like a workaholic. The There Will Be Blood star routinely takes years off between films, once disappearing from the big screen for five years.

When asked why he doesn't work more often he said, "I like to cook



James Cameron has Stanley Kubrick-like dedication to his movies.

things very slowly. I learnt early on that I couldn't jump from one

kind of work to another. I did it a couple of times and it didn't work."

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Anne Hathaway was involved in a traffic collision in Los Angeles on Wednesday afternoon. The 27-year-old movie beauty was sitting on the passenger seat of a car driven by her actor boyfriend, Adam Shulman, when the vehicle collided with a cyclist. ACESHOWBIZ.COM

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Reel Time

Chipmunks back for some more

STEVE GOW for Metro Canada



Zachary Levi has gone from Chuck to Chipmunk.

The 29-year old actor who plays the titular electronics store clerk-turnedspy in TV's Chuck is honored to become guardian of the world's most famous rock 'n' roll rodents next week's release, Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel.

"I was about eight when was watching them in the Eighties," said Levi of the decades-old characters during a recent interview in Los Angeles. "And no changed in their look and their medium — crude an-imation in the '80s to now they're still the same guys. Kids will love them."

And children have defi-nitely loved Alvin & The Chipmunks ever since they made their debut on a Minneapolis radio station singing The Chipmunk Song back in 1958. Further, their popularity



Alvin & the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel opens next week.

has only spread as evidenced by the popularity of their 2007 full-length film debut, which earned over \$350 million globally.

"Look, there's nothing cuter than a couple of chipmunks singing songs," explained Levi. (Producers) Ross (Bagdasarian) and

Janice (Karman) have taken that torch and maintained the innocence and the purity and the heart

always had. That's what I think keeps people with

In the latest cinematic

the singing trio when their proper guardian Dave (Jason Lee) is hospitalized at the expense of Alvin's wild on-stage antics. Ordered to send the chipmunks to school, Levi's bumbling Toby finds the miniature munks a handful — especially once they become smitten with their furry female counterparts, the Chipettes.

"It is (a little freaky) but it's so cool," said Levi of Chipettes' the highpitched versions of contemporary pop songs. "(The producers) always make it relevant to wherever they need to be. They did that in the '50s; they do it now so it's cool.

While Levi added the cover of hit single Hot N Cold may have stood out, it was a variation of another Katy Perry song that the jokester would've preferred to hear.

"I was surprised they didn't have I Kissed a Squirrel (And I Liked It), but whatever, I wasn't in charge of the music."

Basterds, Precious, lead SAGs

AWARDS Up in the Air, Precious and Inglourious Basterds led the Screen Actors Guild Awards with three nominations each Thursday, among them honours for George Clooney, Diane Kruger and Mo'Nique.

The Second World War rewrite Inglourious Basterds and the Harlem story Precious: Based on the Novel Push By Sapphire are competing for the guild's overall cast prize, along with the 1960s British drama An Education, the Iraq War tale The Hurt Locker and the musical Nine.

The corporate-downsizing tale Up in the Air was shut out of that category but scored a lead-actor nomination for Clooney as a frequent-flyer whiz and supporting-actress slots, for Vera Farmiga as his new love and Anna Kendrick as his new protege. The film's Canadianborn director, Jason Reit-

ter

man, was not nominated. Kruger picked up a supporting-actress honour as a German movie star and Allied spy in Inglourious Basterds, which also earned a supporting-actor slot for Christoph Waltz as an exuberantly ruthless Nazi.

Precious earned a lead-actress honour for Gabourev Sidibe as an illiterate, abused teen determined to better a Mo'Nique was nominated as supporting actress as the teen's despicable mother. For best actor, Clooney is

up against Jeff Bridges as Child in Julie&Julia. a boozy country singer in Crazy Penelope Cruz joined Farmiga, Cruz Heart, Colin Firth Kendrick, as a grieving Kruger gay academic Mo'Nique in in A Single Man, Morgan the supporting-actress Freeman field, playing as Nelson Mandela in Invictus and Jeremy Renner as a daredevil bomb technician in The Hurt Locker. Along with Sidibe,



star in The Blind Side, He-South Africa rugby player in Invictus, Woody Harrellen Mirren as the wife of son as a military next-of-kin Leo Tolstoy in The Last Station, Carey Mulligan as a notifier in The Messenger, Christopher Plummer as aging author Tolstoy in The teen involved with an older man in An Education, and Meryl Streep as chef Julia Last Station and Stanley Tucci as a serial killer in

The Lovely Bones.

The choices lined up much the same as Tuesday's Golden Globe nominations. A few notable differences: SAG pick Renner missed out at the Globes, favoured Tobey which Maguire for another waron-terror tale, Brothers; Kruger helped announce Globe nominations but was not selected herself, Ju-lianne Moore making the Globe supporting-actress cut for A Single Man; Emily Blunt, a dramatic-actress nominee at the Globes for The Young Victoria, was snubbed by SAG.

Television nominees included familiar names, comedy-series actress Tina Fey and actor Alec Baldwin of 30 Rock, which also had a nomination for overall cast. The show won all three SAG comedy categories last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sandra Bullock is nominated for a SAG Award.

Tiny Maltese island serves as set for new Moby Dick

TV The treacherous waves crash against the hull of the Pequod while a whale, its gleaming body shimmering in the sun, rises out of the sea and batters the creaking vessel.

The creature breaches the ship and water starts rushing in, spelling doom for the motley crew led by the fanatical Captain Ahab on a do or die mission to kill the monster mammal.

High seas? No, the water tank of the Malta Film Facilities on the tiny Mediterranean island.

The shattering impact of the whale with the creaking whaling vessel is only one dramatic moment in a made-for-TV film based on Herman Melville's classic Moby Dick.

The film, estimated to cost \$25.5 million US, is due to be completed by autumn 2010. Shooting started in Lunenburg near Halifax in mid-September.



Cineplex

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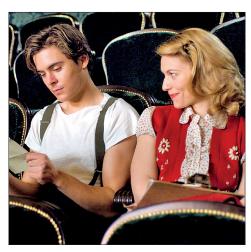
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Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 18 TO THURS., DEC. 24. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.



Orson Welles stars Zac Efron as the young film director.

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Avatar 3D (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12-1-4-5-8-9-11:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 12-1-4-5-8-9 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon 12-1-4-5-8:15-9 No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue Wed 12-1-4-5-8-9 No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu

The Blind Side (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12:30-3:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Wed 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30 **Brothers** (STC) Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Fri-

Wed 10

Did You Hear About The Morgans? (PG)

Did You Hear About The Morgans? (PG)

No Passe, DTS Digital Fri-Sun 12:05;2:40-5:15-7:45;10:15; No Passe, DTS Digital Mon 12:05;-7:46;5:10:15; No Passe, DTS Digital Mon 12:05;-2:40-6:45-9:45; No Passes, DTS Digital Tue-Wed 12:05;2:40-5:15-7:45; Loris No Passes, DTS Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20;3:45-6:45-9:45; Stadium Seating, DTS Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20;3:45-6:30-9:45; Stadium Seating, DTS Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:03-4:35-6:30-9:45; Stadium Seating, DTS Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:03-4:35-6:30-9:45; Stadium Seating, DTS Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:03-4:35-6:30-9:45; Stadium Seating, DTS Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:03-4:35-6:35

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Me and Orson Welles (STG) Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Tri-Thu 12:40-6:11-57:10

ing. DTS Digital Fri-Thu 12:40-4:15-7:10 Miracle on 34th Street (STC) DTS Digital Fri

The Princess and the Frog (G) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 12:10-2:35-6:45-9:10 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Wed 12:10-2:35-5:05-7:30-10:05 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No

Passes Thu 12:10-2:35-5:05-7:30 The Road (14A) Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Fri-Sun 12:45-3:25-6:50-9:40 Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Mon 12:45-3:25-10:15 Stadium Seat-

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Sta-dium Seating, DTS Digital Fri-Sun 12:90-350-7-955 Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Fri-Sun 12:90-350-7-955 Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Mon 12:50-3:50-7:15 Stadium Seating, DTS Digital Tue-Wed 12:50-3:50-7-9:55 Stadium Seating, DTS Digital

Thu 12:593:50-7

Up in the Air (14A) No Passes, Dolby Stereo
Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 12:45-3:45-7:15-10
Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating
Thu 12:45-3:45-7:15

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2012 (PG) Fri 7;30 Sat-Wed 2-7;30 Thu 2-5;30 **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakque!** (G) No Passes Wed 12-2:20-4:40-7:10-9;30 No Passes Thu 12-2:20-4:40-7:10 red (14A) Fri 4:40-7:10-9:30 Sat-Tue 2:10-

4:40-7:10-9:30 **Avatar 3D** (PG) No Passes Fri 4:20-4:50-8-9 No

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The Blind Side [PG] Fri 3:45-6:50-9:45 Sat-Wed 12:50-3:45-6:50-9:45 Thu 12:50-3:45-6:40
Brothers [STC] Fri 4:257:15-9:55 Sat-Tue 1:45-4:257:15-9:55
Did You Hear About The Morgans? (PG)

No Passes Fri 4:10-7:20-9:50 No Passes Sat-Wed 1:20-4:10-7:20-9:50 No Passes Thu 1:20-4:10-7 Invictus (STC) No Passes Fri 3:40-6:40-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 Mon-W 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:40 Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40 The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri 4-7-9:25 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:25 Mon-

4-7-9:25 Thu 1:30-4-7 The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 3:50-6:45-9:35 Sat-Wed 1-3:50-6:45-9:35 Thu 1-

Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Wed 1:45-4:25-7:15-9:55 No Passes Thu 1:45-4:25-6:55

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Precious: Based on the Novel "Push nire (14A) Fri 6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 2-6:50-9:10 Mon-Wed 6:50-9:10

METRO CINEMA Zeidler Hall, Citadel Theatre Complex, 9828-101 Ave., 780-425-9212. metrocinema.org

Silent Night, Deadly Night (STC) Fri 9 **MOVIES 12**

5074 130 Ave., 780-472-9779

5074 130 Ave., 780-472-9779
3 Idiots (SIC) Wed-fine 4:157-43
Amelia (RQ) Fri-Wed 1:354-307-05-950 Thu
1354-307-05
Astro Boy (PQ) Fri-Sat 1:50-4457-15-940-12
Sun-Wed 1:50-4457-15-940 Thu 1:50-4457-15
Creque du Freak: The Vampire's Assistant (PQ) Fri-Une 1:45-4.15
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (Q)
Fri-Wed 1:25-4357-920 Thu 1:254-357Couples Retreat (PQ) Fri-Sat 1:55-47-05-9351:25 Sun-Wed 1:15-47-05-935 Thu 1:15-47-05-9351:25 Sun-Wed 1:15-47-05-935 Thu 1:10-405-655Inglourious Basterds (IsA) Fri-Sat 1-4:15739-1:11:05 un-Hu 1-415-730
Pirate Radio (IaA) Fri-Sat 1:20-410-650-925Fits Sun-Wed 1:20-410-650-925 Thu 1:250-Sun-Wed 1:20-410-650-925 Thu 1:250-Sun-Wed 1:20-410-650-925 Thu 1:250-Sun-Wed 1:20-410-650-925 Thu 1:250-Sun-Wed 1:20-410-650-925 Thu 1:20-

11:50 Sun-Wed 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:25 Thu 1:20

Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year (PG) Fri-Sat 1:05-4:25-7:50-11:05 Sun-Thu 1:05 4:25-7:50

Surrogates (14A) Fri-Sat 1:40-4:25-7:20-9:30-11:40 Sun-Wed 1:40-4:25-7:20-9:30 Thu 1:40-

1:30-4:20-7:10-9:25-11:45 Sun-7:10-9:25 Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10

Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Fri-Sat

Whiteout (14A) Fri-Sat 7:35-9:55-12:10 Sun-

Tue 7:35-9:55

Zombieland (18A) Fri-Sat 1:35-4:40-7:25-9:50-12:05 Sun-Wed 1:35-4:40-7:25-9:50 Thu 1:35-

NORTH EDMONTON **CINEMAS**

14231 137th Ave., 780-732-2236

2012 (PG) Fri-Wed 11:50-3:20-6:50-10:10 Thu 11:50-3:20-6:50 Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) No Passes Wed 12:10-2:50-5:20-7:35-9:50 No Passes Thu 12:10-2:50-5:20-7:25

Avatar 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:45-1-3:15-4:30-7-8-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:45-1-3:15-

4.30-7 7.4-3 **The Blind Side** (PG) Fri-Wed 12:40-3:40-6:40-40 Thu 12:40-3:4 The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (18A) Fri 1:50-5:10-7:45-10:35 Sat 5:10-7:45-10:35

Brothers (STC) Fri-Wed 3:50-6:45-

Morgans? (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:55 No Passes

7:05 Invictus (STC) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:20-3:30-6:30-9:30 No Passes Thu 12:20-3:30-6:30 The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann (STC) Sat 11

d'Hoffmann (STC) Sat 11 Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Tue 1:20-4:15-7:50-

10:20 Old Dogs (G) Fri-Wed 12:30-2:40-4:50-7:20-9:45 Thu 12:30-2:40-4:50-7:20 Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 1:10 The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Wed 12-

2:30-5;7:30-9;50 Thu 12-2:30-5;7:30

The Road (1,4A) Fri-Tue 1:40-4;20-7;40-10:15

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri
Wed 12:50-4;7:15:10 Thu 12:50-4;7:15

Up in the Air (1,4A) No Passes Wed 1:20-4:1
7:50-10:20 No Passes Thu 1:20-4;15;7:50

PRINCESS I & II 10337 Whyte Ave., 780-433-0728

An Education (PG) Fri 7:10-9:10 Sat-Sun 2-7:10-9:10 Mon-Wed 7:10-9:10 Good Hair (PG) Fri 9 Sat-Sun 3-9 Mon-Wed 9 It Might Get Loud (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1-7

> SCOTIABANK THEATRE **WEST MALL** 8882 170th St., 780-444-2400

2012 (PG) Fri-Tue 11:20-3-6:30-10 Wed 6:30-10 Thu 11:20-3-6:30 Alvin and the Chipmunks: The

ueakquel (G) No Passes Wed 12-2:30-4:50-7-9:20 No Passes Thu 12-2:30-4:50-7

(0-4:50-7 **Armored** (14A) Fri 12-2:30-7:50 Sat 7:50 Sun-Tue 12-2:30-7:50 **Avatar 3D**

7:10-9:30 Thu 11:50-2:15-4:40-7:10 **Invictus** (STC) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:10-3:20-6:40-9:50 No Passes Thu 12:10-3:20-6:40

6:40-9:50 No Passes Thu 12:10-3:20-6:40

The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes
d'Hoffmann (STC) Sat 11

Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Tue 4:50-10:45

Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 11:10-1:30

The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Wed

11:30-2-4:30-7:15-9:40 Thu 11:30-2-4:30-7:15

The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC)

Wed 1: The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-4:10-7:40-10:40 Thu 12:30-4:10-7:40 Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:20-4:20-7:30-10:20 No Passes Thu 1:20-4:20-7:30

SOUTH EDMONTON 1525 99th St., 780-436-8585

2012 (PG) Fri-Wed 2-6:30-10 Thu 2-6:30 **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (G) No Passes Wed 11:45-2:10-4:30-6:50-9:20 No Passes Thu 11:45-2:10-4:30-6:30-6:20 No Passes Thu 11:45-2:10-4:30-6:20 No Passes No Pa

4.3970.9 3081 650 **Avatar 3D** (PG) No Passes Fri 11:40-12:45-130-315-430-6307-810-10:30 No Passes Sat-Wed 11:4512:4513-03-15-430-6307-810-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:4512:1513-03-15-463077-30 **The Blind Side** (PG) Fri-Wed 12:10-3:25-640-

The Blind Side [PG] Fir-Wed 12:10-3:25-6:40-9:45 Thu 12:10-3:25-6:40-9:45 Thu 12:10-3:25-6:40-9:45 Thu 12:10-3:25-6:40-9:45 Thu 47:40-10:25 Wed 47:40-10:25 Thu 11:0-3:50-7:15-9:50 No Passes Thu 11:10-3:50-7:15

Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri-Wed 12:10-3:20-6:45-9:25 Thu 12:10-3:20-6:45 Invictus (STC) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:20-3:35-6:50-10:20 No Passes Thu 12:20-3:35-6:50

The Metropolitan Opera: Les Contes d'Hoffmann (STC) Sat 11 Ninia Assassin (18A) Fri 1:45-4:45-7:30-10:10

Sat 4:457:30-10:10 Sun-Tue 1:45-4:45-7:30-10:10 Old Dogs (G) Fri-Wed 12:35-3:05-5:20-7:45-10:05 Thu 12:35-3:05-5:20-7:45 Planet 51 (G) Fri-Tue 11:50-2:15-4:35-7:05-9:35 Wed-Thu 12:15

Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire (14A) Fri Wed 1-3:45-6:35-9:35 Thu 1-3:45

> The Princess and the Froq (G) Fri-Tue 11:55-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:55 Wed 11:55-4:40-7:05-9:30 Thu 11:55-2:20-4:40-7:05 The Road (14A) Fri-Tue 12:15-

The Royal Ballet: The Nut-

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Wed 12-3:30-6:45-9:40 Thu 12-3:30-6:45 **Up in the Air** (14A) No Passes Wed 12:25-4:20-7:30-10:15 No Passes thu 12:25-4:20-7:30

TELUS WORLD OF SCI-

ENCE Edmonton Space And Science

Centre. 1121-142 St., 780-451-3344

Dinosaurs Alive! (STC) Fri 2-4 Sat 12-2-6 Sun-Wed 12-2 Grand Canyon Adventure: River Grand Canyon at Risk (STC) Fri 6

at Risk (STC) Fri 6 India: Kingdom of the Tiger (STC) Fri 13-57-5 at 3-57 Sun-Wed 3-5 The Light Before Christmas (STC) Fri 11 Sat-Wed 11-1-4 Wild Ocean (STC) Fri 10

WESTMOUNT CEN-

111 Ave. & Groat Rd., 403-455-8726

2012 (PC) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri Tue 12:30-4:10-8 DTS Digital Wed 12:30-4:10-8 DTS Digital Thu 12:30-4:10 Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes es Wed 12:45-3:20-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Thu 12:45-3:20

ind Side (PG) DTS Digital Fri-Tue 12:45-

he Billio State (1 -). :40-6:35-9:30 Did You Hear About The Morgans? (PG)

DTS Digital, No Passes Fri-Wed 1:15-4-7:15-9:50

m.metrenews.ca



on your smartphone. Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

DTS Digital, No Passes Thu 1:15-4 **The Twilight Saga: New Moon** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Sun 1:3:55-6:45-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 1:3:55-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 1:3:55-6:45-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital Wed 1-3:50-6:45-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital Thu 1-3:50

GRANDIN THEATRES 101-22 Sir Winston Churchill Ave., St. Albert,780-458-9822

the Chipmunks: The uel (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:15-3:20-

ar (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-2:30-6:20 The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Tue 1:35-4:15-7-9:25

The Blind Side [Po] FIF-Ide 2:35, 4-27, 3-27 Brothers (STC) Fri-Thu 9 Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:15-5-6:55 The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 1-3-

4-55-0-50-0-40 **The Twilight Saga: New Moon** (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-7:05-9:30

GALAXY CINEMAS SHERWOOD PARK 2020 Sherwood Dr., Sherwood Park 780-416-0152

2012 (PG) Fri-Tue 12:30-4:10-8 2012 (PG) Fit-Tue 12:30-4:10-8
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The
Squeakquel (G) No Passes Wed 12:215-4457:10-9:30 No Passes Tivu 12:215-445-7:10
Avatar (PG) No Passes Fit-Wed 11:45-3:157-10:30 No Passes Thi Wed 11:45-3:157-10:30 No Passes Thi Wed 11:45-3:157-10:30 No Passes Thi Wed 11:45-3:15The Blind Side (PG) Fit-Wed 12:50-3:50-6:5010 Thu 12:50-3:50-6:50-

10 Thu 12:50-3:50-6:50 **Brothers** (STC) Fri-Tue 4:20-7:20-10:15 **Did You Hear About The Morgans?** (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:40-3:40-7:15-10:10 No Pass-

es Thu 12:40-3:40-7:15

Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri-Wed

Tabs. 4407-110-940 Thu 1:15-4407-110 Invictus (STC) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:20-3:30-630-930 No Passes Thu 12:20-3:30-630 Planet 51 (c) Fri-Tue 1:20 The Princess and the Frog (c) Fri-Wed 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:30-9:50 Thu 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:30-7:50 Thu 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:30-7:50 Thu 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:30-7:50 Thu 12:

The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC)

Wed 1 **The Twilight Saga: New Moon** (PG) Fri-Tue 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Wed 3:45-6:45-9:45 Thu

Tue 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Wed 3:45-6:45-9:45 Th 12:45-3:45-6:45 **Up in the Air** (14A) No Passes Wed 12:30-4-7:45-10:15 No Passes Thu 12:30-4-7:45

PARKLAND CINEMA 130 Century Crossing, Spruce Grove 780-962-2332

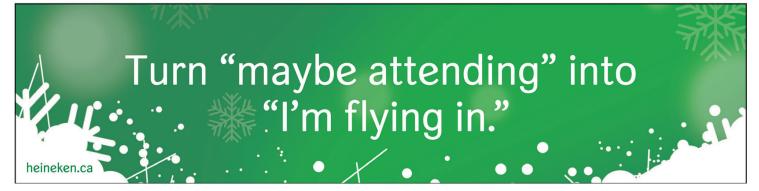
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The Blind Side (PG) Fri 6:55-9:25 Sat-Wed 12:55-3:25-6:55-9:25 Thu 12:55-3:25 Did You Hear About The Morgans? (PG) Fri 6:50-9:05 Sat-Wed 1:05-3:05-6:50-9:05 Thu

1:05-3:05 **Old Dogs** (G) Fri 7:10-9:20 Sat-Tue 1:10-3:20-

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11:45-3:15-7

3:50-6:45

Wed 11-1-2:45-5-6:30-9-10:15 No Passes Thu 11-1-

Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:45-3:15-7-10:30 No Passes Thu

The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Wed 12:20-3:30-6:50-

Did You Hear About The Morgans? (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:10-4-7:20-10:10 No Passes

Disney's A Christmas Carol (PG) Fri 12-2:15-4:40-7:10-9:30 Sat-Wed 11:50-2:15-4:40-

Brothers (STC) Fri-Wed 3:50-6:45-9:20 Thu

No Passes Fri

1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. Glee Soundtrack, Various Artists;

4. Fearless (Platinum Edition), Taylor Swift; 5. Play On, Carrie Underwood. METRO NEWS SERVICES



movies&entertainment 39

Platinum Blonde joins music hall

BAND The '80s pop band Platinum Blonde is being inducted into the Canadian Music and Broadcast Industry Hall of Fame.

Known for such melodic new wave hits as Standing In The Dark, Crying Over You and It Doesn't Really Matter, the band will be recognized at a luncheon March 12, 2010 in Toronto during Canadian Music

Vocalist Mark Holmes. drummer Chris Steffler and guitarist Sergio Galli broke onto the music scene in 1982 with catchy singles, big blond hair and glam-rock style.

Keyboardist Kenny MacLean joined the band in 1985, roughly four years before they would split up.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Orianthi and the King of Pop

Guitarist was hired to back Michael Jackson on This Is it comeback

KEITH CARMAN for Metro Canada

Rock guitarist Orianthi Panagaris has just released her sophomore full-length Believe.

While the album gleans respect thanks to Panagaris' prodigiousness and a notable history with highlights such as performing alongside fellow fret board gurus Carlos Santana, Eric Clapton and Steve Vai (not to mention backing Prince and Carrie Underwood during her recent Grammy Awards performance), the Australianborn/Greek-bred instru-mentalist has an even greater credit to her name.

Panagaris was the guitarist for the late Michael Jackson on his unrealized This Is It string of come-back concerts. So despite the thrill of seeing her own talent gain accolades, the dextrous dame understands why people feel more inclined to discuss her brief tenure as sixstring samurai for the

string saniural 101 the King of Pop.
"I was shocked when it happened," she reflects with a hint of melancholy.
"I went to try out for the band playing the solo for Beat It. I didn't know what to expect but he was so



Orianthi Panagaris was the guitarist for Michael Jackson on his unrealized This Is It comeback.

happy with the way I played, he hired me on the spot. I couldn't believe it."

Over the course of the ensuing three months, Panagaris (who typically utilizes her first name) and the rest of the This Is It band routinely re-hearsed with Jackson and his troupe, creating a purportedly dazzling return to form for the disparaged Yet, as we all know, mere weeks before the show was to go on, Jackson passed away. Reflecting, Panagaris reveals that Jackson's essence captured her so deeply, she feels little remorse at not getting to strut her stuff for the

string of 50 sold-out gigs. "We didn't get to do the shows but we got the chance to play music with him for three months.

she smiles. "He was so giving to all of us. He wanted us all to have our moment and put everything he had into it. He was happy and enthusiastic about it.

"People say he didn't want to do it but you can tell with (the This Is It film) how much he really did. We're never gonna get to play with him again but we got to see how wonderful he was as person and

"I didn't know what to expect but (Michael Jackson) was so happy with the way I played, he hired me on the spot. I couldn't believe it."

Orianthi Panagaris

an artist. We were also the last people to be around him. We'll never forget that. It's life-changing."

Such an astounding experience is also the reason Panagaris forgives minds for inquiring more about her time with Jackson than her new record. She expects it, she laughs, noting that overall, she is merely thankful to have been part of such a historical moment.

"It doesn't bother me at all that people ask about my time with MJ more than Believe. I understand that. (The album) was done before I was hired. I have a great band that knew how working with MJ was a dream come true. I don't think it hindered it at all. I'm grateful to have been a part of (This Is It) and now I'm focusing on

Music that made a difference



weeks left

in The Decade with Name — Seriously. what will the people of the future call the first decade of the 21st century? Did we ever come up with a name for the years between 1900 and 1909? — 'tis time for the compiling of "best of" lists. Here are my picks for the ten best from the last ten years in order of release date.

Agaetis Byrjun, Sigur Ros (Early 2000): OK, so it was actually released in 1999. but it wasn't until Y2K safely passed that people began to embrace its sublime mellowness. Buy one now. Iceland needs your hard currency.

Kid A, Radiohead (Oct. 2, **2001):** Under pressure to follow up 1997's OK Computer, Radiohead deconstructed itself in order to assemble an astonishingly smooth record that doesn't sound like it was made by a rock band.

White Blood Cells, The White Stripes (July 3, 2001): No bass player? Brother and sister or exhusband-and-wife? Didn't matter. She was the mute timekeeper and Jack White was quietly an-nouncing that this was going to be his decade.

This Is It, The Strokes (Sept 25, 2001): Yes, several of the Strokes were trustfund private school kids, but that certainly didn't stop them from making a street smart record that really kicked off the



Coldplay, above, and The Strokes, right, delivered two of the last decade's best albums.

decade's fascination with indie rock.

Songs for the Deaf, Queens of the Stone Age the Deaf, (Aug. 27, 2002): Josh Homme out front, Dave Grohl on drums. In retrospect, the ancestor of Them Crooked Vultures.

A Rush of Blood to the Head, Coldplay (April 1, 2003): Parachutes was a fine record, but it certainly didn't hint towards the superstardom that would

come rushing in with the next album.

Elephant, White Stripes (April 1, 2003): Seven Nation Army and the Hardest Button to Button cemented Jack White's rep as the guitar god of the '00s.

American Idiot, Green Day (Sept. 21, 2004): Aging punk rockers mount comeback with a punk rock opera. Didn't see that com-

Whatever People Say I



That's What I'm Not/Arctic Monkeys (Feb. **21, 2006):** They went from getting guitars for Christmas to the biggest new band in the U.K. in just a couple of years. And Alex Turner has become one of the decade's best lyricists.

In Rainbow/Radiohead (Oct. 10, 2007): Ask people to pay what they think the album is worth? Good luck with that.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com



Ashton Kutcher's canceled CW drama, The Beautiful Life: TBL, will live again — on YouTube. Citing fan requests, Kutcher put all five episodes on YouTube on Thursday. TVGUIDE.COM



Television

TV set decorators get into the festive spirit

Imagine if your holiday decorations were going to be seen by millions of people. That's the challenge for many TVshow set decorators as all the Christmas-themed episodes roll around.

'Decorations should be what's appropriate for the characters and story," says Hannah Montana set decorator Wendy Fine. "You don't put things outrageous that shouldn't be outrageous. If all they're talking about is the set. the sets were overdone or the actors were really bad."

Like other television show set decorators, she scoured stores and online sites for Christmas trinkets, knickknacks and decorations months before the actual holiday. Most episodes

Mad Men set decorator Amy Wells didn't grow up classic celebrating Christmas, but "the moment I got out fake of my parents' house, I got a lot of vintage Christmas decorations," she said. had a box full of stuff. Old mercurystyle bowls light frosty pink and light frosty aqua. Wells put those vintage finds to

good use on the AMC show, set in the early 1960s at fictional New York advertising firm Sterling Cooper. Season three's Mad Men finale, which aired Nov. 8, featured everything from a Christmas



tree in the office. Each secretary desk at Sterling Cooper had some kind of decoration, including holiday candy bowls, holiday candy, china Santas and candy canes. Authenticity, Wells, is paramount.

"We make it look like the art department did-n't come in. We make it look like it's real," Wells said, "The decoration was authentic decoration that day.'

"What available to people back then was much more limited. There were no twinkle lights,' Wells said.

For Hannah Montana, Fine was



Miley Cyrus on the set of Hannah Montana

tional Christmas decorations such as strung-up cards and a red-ribboned wreath for the Disney show's season three holiday episode.

The set included the California house that teenager Miley Stewart's family

"The decorations in the house were supposed to be things they may have brought from Tennessee, like traditional Christmas lights," said Fine. "There was nothing very designer about it. It was homey.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A TV show is no longer just a TV show — it's music and more

TELEVISION These days, programming for the tube is a multi-platform endeavour, encompassing online. gaming, music, DVDs, toys and tours in a bid to keep budgets in the black and eyeballs glued to the small screen.

From Heroes to Lost, High School Musical to Glee, recent experiments are pointing to radical shifts in the way stories are told and the way viewers consume them, with observers predicting bold changes to the TV business as it emerges from a decade of fragmented audiences and dwindling advertising revenues.

Over the next 10 years, literally what we consider traditional ways of telling stories are going to com-pletely fall apart," predicts Peter Vamos of the Banff

"We have a generation of kids who ... all they've ever known is the validation that is derived from selfexpression through two-way communication through the Internet

Jeff Gomez

World Television Festival. "If it's a good story, it's a good story and if it entertains you, it entertains you and you're not going to have to fit these things within certain types of story arcs — there can be any number of different ways of doing this sort of stuff."



Heroes offers fans more with graphic novels and online content.

"There will be a fairly dramatic shift soon, even for content that's established in Canada," adds Jeff Gomez, head of the New York-based digital production company Starlight Entertainment Runner "There'll be more and more of this kind of crossplatform implementation . You're going to see really artful and emotionally engaging implementation."

What they're talking about is a phenomenon known as transmedia, in which a story might start on television, evolve online in a new direction and then shift again to take shape as a novel.

Mediawire CEO Ned Sherman points to Heroes as a prime example of the transmedia phenomenon, noting it's generated hundreds of millions of dollars in additional revenue for NBC Universal through things including online content, magazines, action figures, interactive websites, graphic novels and webisodes.

"Every sign is that net-work television is on the decline and cable continues to do well," notes Sher-

"From what I hear out there the whole system is under evaluation right

Canadian TV production is poised to see an influx of

such interactive initiatives with the merging of the Canadian Television Fund and the Canada New Media Fund into the Canada Media Fund, set to launch in April 2010.

The new fund will require applicants to make their projects available on at least two platforms, one of which must be television. Projects produced in high definition will be favoured

"That is the way of the future. We have a generation of kids who are getting older now, they're headed toward puberty and all they've ever known is the Internet, and so all they've ever known is the validation that is derived self-expression from through two-way communication through the Internet," says Gomez.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

